

Help others this holiday season
Local non-profits can use gifts of
time – and various items – for clients.
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GOP assault on gays
Federal Marriage Amendment
introduced in the Senate.
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Spirits soaring
Tony Kushner's 'Angels
in America' airs on HBO.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



Jane Philomen Cleland

World AIDS Day at the grove

The National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park held its 10th annual World AIDS Day observance Monday, December 1. Above: attendees took part in making "leaves of remembrance" that will be hung on an artifice tree there in the year 2015. Paul Miller of the Stop AIDS Project received the HIV/AIDS Community Service Award for his work providing education about HIV prevention to others. Tom Coates, Ph.D., former director of UCSF's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, was the recipient of the Award of Honor. Coates is now at UCLA and his award was accepted by Simon Kageles, co-director of CAPS. See page 24 for the latest AIDS statistics released by UNAIDS and the CDC.

Castro offers a lot for holiday shopping

by Matthew S. Bajko

This holiday season Castro merchants are launching a marketing effort to draw shoppers from across the city into the business district, advertising the fact that more than just gay bars dot upper Market and Castro streets.

Despite last weekend's wet weather, which put a damper on the start of the busy holiday shopping season, the *Bay Area Reporter* headed out to the gay neighborhood to see just what owners have stocked in their stores this Christmas.

The locally-owned **Nancy Boy**, a bath and body products store for men at 2319 Market Street, is once again selling its tiara-topped blue glass ornaments (\$15) which sold out last year. Expanding on the queenly

theme this year, the store is also selling a tiara-topped velvet royal bear (\$45) because "some bears are secret princesses."

For the domestic goddess on one's list, the store also sells vintage decor glass bowls (\$35 to \$40). Blown into various shapes, the bowls come in turquoise, sea-green, clear, and burnt orange colors. The store also packages its hair care and soap products into overnight bags (\$25) claiming they are "perfect for people who sleep around." The bags contain products for either hair or skin.

The newly opened, lesbian-owned **Happy Trails** at 2231 Market Street returns the pop culture tastes of Uncle Mame's to the Castro. The "one-stop pop shop" took over the space vacated by Crossroads Trading Company and opened Friday, November 28.

The store carries everything from 2004 calendars (\$12.99) based on Dr. Seuss, The Petty Girls classic pin-up art, *Curious George*, and the *Wizard of Oz* to pop-themed T-shirts depicting James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Mr. T, and Elvis. The shirts start at \$18.99 for short sleeve and up to \$27 for long-sleeve.

Peter Grimm cowboy hats (\$44.99) come in snake-skin style, with red flames, or in simple black or tans. Party beverage napkins sure to bring a smile to guests come in sets of 20 (\$5.99) and the trailer-park inspired pink flamingo lawn decor costs \$19.99 for a set of two.

The store also is selling a new edition of the 1962 children's classic picture book *This is San Francisco* (\$17.95) by Czech-born artist Miroslav Sasek. The book is a look back in time to a San Francisco of yesteryear, with footnotes added to explain how some of the scenes captured by Sasek are no more.

At **home** at 538 Castro Street, the home decor shop has restocked its most popular item from last December, an aluminum ice cream container with spoon (\$48) made by

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SF report: Less risky sex found among gay men

by Matthew S. Bajko

For the first time since 2001, gay and bisexual men are engaging in less risky sexual behavior and are helping to bring the city's HIV epidemic under control, San Francisco health officials reported this week.

In their annual report before the Health Commission Tuesday, December 2, officials with the Office of AIDS said that after a resurgence of HIV infections in 1995, the rate of transmission of the virus among men who have sex with men has stabilized since 2001.

And as the rest of the country continues to see a rise in AIDS cases, San Francisco health



Sandra Schwarcz

officials report the city's AIDS cases, as well as deaths, are on the decline.

"New AIDS cases and deaths are declining. HIV risk behavior and incidence may be stabilizing. In 2002 it seemed to drop," Sandra Schwarcz, head of the health department's HIV/AIDS Statistics and Epidemiology Section, told health commissioners. "But we do need to expand efforts to monitor the leading edge of the epidemic."

Data from the Stop AIDS Project shows that gay and bi men, whether HIV-positive, -negative or status unknown, reported less unprotected anal intercourse between 2001 and

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Jane Philomen Cleland

This is San Francisco, left, is one of many books on sale at Happy Trails in the Castro.

Homo for the holidays

by Zak Szymanski

Gay gift-givers are blessed to live in San Francisco, where LGBT interests are broad, and mainstream merchants are sophisticated enough to cater to their desires.

When shopping beyond the rainbow district of the Castro, a variety of goods await those with elegant and deliberately tacky tastes alike.

Hot items new to the market or simply old enough to have staying power include jewelry and other adornments, fetish wares, retro decor, and pop culture items. To add a unique touch to your generosity, consider custom-made merchandise, gift certificates for services, or original art work. The city delivers a healthy offering for everyone on your list.

Acquaintances, bar buddies, and even boyfriends who like their stockings stuffed will all appreciate the smaller collectibles at **Cheap Thrills**, 1615 Haight, including homo-tinted bath accessories (\$5-\$15), chain necklaces (\$5-\$10), same-sex cake-toppers (\$4), animal print lunch boxes (\$13), gummy handcuffs (\$4), and torso toothpick holders (\$5).

For the pop-cult fanatics, nothing says in-the-know like Asian animation, home to a range of delightfully genderbent and absurdist heroes – from the thinking, caring, buff robot-kid AstroBoy – to Kogepan, the burned piece of bread who talks about life as an outsider in a world full of perfect buns. **Kinokuniya Bookstore**, at 1581 Webster Street in the Japan Center, is the local authority on Japanese manga and anime, with dozens of shelves

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Governor proposes capping ADAP enrollment

by Matthew S. Bajko

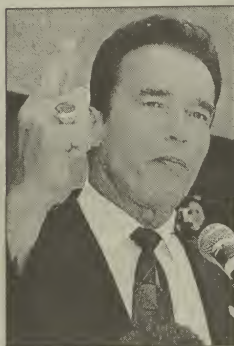
Less than a month in office and already Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is pitting his administration against the state's AIDS lobby over a proposed cap in enrollment to a program that provides lifesaving drugs to people living with AIDS.

As the governor looks to trim the state budget to meet an estimated \$10 billion shortfall, Schwarzenegger has suggested the state limit the number of people who can apply to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. The program currently is funded at \$212 million, with the state's contribution at \$65 million.

As part of a set of budget cuts he asked the Legislature to make halfway through the current budget year, Schwarzenegger proposed closing enrollment in the program to new participants, denying HIV medications to an estimated 720 people with HIV or AIDS from January 1 to June 30, 2004.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation called the proposed policy a death sentence for those people who would be denied access to the life-saving medications.

"The ability of low-income people living with HIV and AIDS to access this program is a matter of life and death," said Dana Van Gorder, the foundation's director of state and local affairs. "If Gov-



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

ernor Schwarzenegger's proposal is enacted, many individuals will become sick and some people will die because they are denied access to life-saving medications."

AIDS lobbyists estimate the program needs an additional \$40 million to meet projected growth needs for the 2004-2005 budget year. During a meeting with the Assembly Budget Committee in November, Schwarzenegger's finance director Donna Arduin argued that the proposed caps are necessary to rein in the state's spending.

Legislators and AIDS survivors immediately denounced the proposed plan and have already launched a lobbying effort to see that a cap is not imposed.

"ADAP has been a critical lifeline for tens of thousands of people living with AIDS and their lives will suffer with the proposed cutbacks," said San Francisco resident Stu Smith, who is HIV-positive. "I read only two days ago that our new governor said he wasn't going to cut health or social services and that he would raise taxes before allowing further cuts."

Oakland resident Eric Ciasullo, chair of the National Association of People With AIDS Board of Directors, labeled the plan an "assault" and predicted that advocates and activists across the state will vigorously resist a cap, with demonstrations and possibly "die-ins" on the steps of the Capitol.

"For thousands of Californians with HIV/AIDS, ADAP is the ultimate safety net protecting us from an almost inevitable descent into severe illness, hospitalization, and death. ADAP saves lives in the most basic and straightforward way imaginable," said Ciasullo. "For many of us, myself included, ADAP has provided an opportunity to avoid the hospital, stabilize medically, and return to work in jobs that provide full medical coverage. Capping enrollment to the program-of-last-resort for lifesaving medications condemns people with HIV/AIDS to death—it's unspeakably cruel, it's economically shortsighted, it's bad for the economy, and it's bad public policy."

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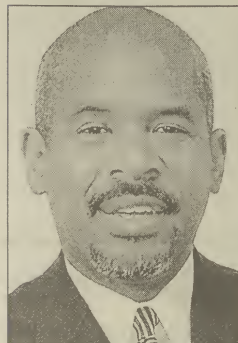
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COMMUNITY NEWS

BCA hires new director

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the Black Coalition on AIDS celebrates the holidays with a jazz club stroll next weekend, it also is welcoming a new executive director to the agency.



BCA's Perry Lang

Perry Lang joined the agency last month after it went through an executive transition and capacity-building effort facilitated through Capacity Leap, a program funded by the Office of Minority Health. The process also focused on developing board leadership, strengthening programs, and building other aspects of the agency's infrastructure.

In July 2002, former Executive Director Duane Poe announced he was stepping down to launch a

consulting business. Poe remained on board for another year to lead the agency as it conducted its executive search and replaced its board members.

Lang, 49, served as the western

regional director of YouthBuild USA, a national nonprofit focused on youth development and housing, and was formerly the vice president of Oakland's Robert C.

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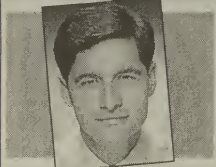
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Agency hosts employment training for people with HIV

by Matthew S. Bajko

Positive Resource Center's Employment Services Program is hosting a free open house next week to help HIV-positive people re-enter the workforce.

Called "An Open Door For 2004" the training and education fair will be set up so that people with HIV can meet one-on-one with representatives from Bay Area training programs, schools, and universities, including financial aid counselors and resources for financial support.

Representatives from Catholic Charities' Second Start Partial Rent Subsidy Program; City College of San Francisco; The Considering Work Project of UCSF AIDS Health Project; Department of Rehabilitation; JVS/Jewish Vocational Services; PRC's Next Step Computer Training Program; Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center; San Francisco State University; San Francisco Vocational Services; and the Small Business Administration will be at the fair.

Options for training and education represented at the fair will include GED preparation, biotechnology, food preparation,

small business development, medical billing, drug treatment counseling, clothing and textiles, business computer skills, paralegal studies, cosmetology and esthetics, construction, accounting, and English as a Second Language.

The fair will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 10 at Positive Resource Center, offices located at 973 Market Street (between 5th and 6th Streets), at the Powell Street Muni/BART station.

For more information, call (415) 777-0333 or visit the agency's Web site at www.positiveresource.org. ▼

LGBT group hosts queer commercials chat

by Matthew S. Bajko

The gay founder of a Web site that tracks queer images used in commercials will address a local LGBT employee group next week.

Veteran ad journalist Michael Wilke, who launched the site www.commercialcloset.org in 2001, will be the featured guest at the December meeting of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates. Wilke will review how classic gay stereotypes like the sissy, the lipstick lesbian, and the leatherman, as well as same-sex kisses, have

been represented in commercials worldwide over the last 30 years.

The Web site's archive contains over 600 commercials and 600 print ads from around the world, and is constantly growing as new brands and companies turn a queer eye toward marketing their products. The project counts nearly 700 North American ads, 200 from Europe, 40 from Australia/New Zealand, 20 from Latin America, and a handful from Asia and elsewhere. After the U.S., countries with the most ads are Great Britain, closely followed by Canada and Australia.

Over 500 brands from nearly

450 corporations are represented, with work from 300 ad agencies. The earliest commercial is from 1974 (Joe Namath, Beautymist pantyhose) and earliest print ad from 1917 (Ivory).

The lecture, which will feature a video show of different advertising the site has archived, will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, December 11 at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. The suggested donation is \$20 and the lecture is open to the public. To RSVP, e-mail Out & Equal event coordinator Ian Myszenski at Imyszenski@outandequal.org or call (415) 808-4280. ▼



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Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Voter Guide for **Tuesday, December 9th**

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Tribute to Harvey Milk

Members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, with former director Dick Kramer conducting, assembled on the steps of City Hall Thursday, November 27 in a moving reenactment of the group's first public performance. It was 25 years ago, on the night that Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated, that the band of singers gathered on the steps during a vigil for Milk and Moscone and publicly performed for the first time. Milk and Moscone were murdered by ex-Supervisor Dan White on November 27, 1978. Current GMC artistic director and conductor Kathleen McGuire told the Bay Area Reporter that more than 100 chorus members took part in last week's performance. "What struck me was the number of people there who were there 25 years ago," she said. The chorus performed "Amazing Grace," which was sung 25 years ago, and invited the audience to join in. Supervisor Bevan Dufty read Milk's "Hope" speech, and the chorus premiered a new piece inspired by the speech with music by Libby Larsen and lyrics by Adam Sandel. "It was very powerful," McGuire said. "I'm really glad that we did it."

East Bay gay chorus to perform holiday concert

by Cynthia Laird

The Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus launches its fifth season with its annual holiday concert next weekend.

"I Got Yule, Babe" is a mix of spiritual and joyful choral music, from classic to contemporary, and takes place Saturday, December 13 in Oakland.

Artistic director Michael Carlson said he is proud to present a chorus that has grown to 40 singers "in a light-hearted and heartfelt musical look at LGBT

holiday traditions."

"Some pieces focus on what it means to be a gay person celebrating holidays with family, others on what holiday traditions are like in other parts of the world," Carlson said. "The concert capitalizes on the chorus' experience performing music of many different genres."

Chorus President Scott Stewart, who sings tenor, said he is "thrilled by the enthusiasm expressed by the chorus members for our holiday concert, and by the fact that we're maintaining our tradition of presenting songs that are sacred and serious, as well

as over-the-top fun."

The concert takes place at 8 p.m. at the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue in Oakland. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased from any chorus member, by calling the office at (800) 706-2389, or by visiting www.east-bayvoice.org and clicking on tickets.

In other news, the chorus will be holding auditions for its spring concert on January 6, 8, and 10. For more information, e-mail auditions@oebgmc.org. ▼

AIDS groups launch voter education Web site

by Bob Roehr

AIDSVote.org was officially launched on World AIDS Day, Monday, December 1, with the twin goals of educating presidential candidates about the issues and the public on the positions that those candidates take.

Founding organizations include local groups such as the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco and the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, and national groups such as the National Association of People With AIDS. Membership is open and growing.

"AIDSVote.org is an effort to ensure that AIDS issues figure prominently in the public debate surrounding the 2004 presidential election," said David Munar, with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

The Web site includes a model presidential platform on HIV/AIDS, which has been sent to all of the presidential candidates.

Candidate responses will be posted in full as they are received.

The 10-point platform focuses on domestic and international funding; science-based rather than religious/ideological-based prevention activity; and integrating solutions to associated issues of substance abuse, mental health, and comorbid diseases.

"Our next president must accept the awesome and solemn responsibility to lead the world to end the AIDS pandemic," said Julie Davids with the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization for Power. "Our next president must insist that all people living with HIV receive immediate and high quality treatment."

Advocates have been frustrated by recent congressional action, or inaction, that does not adequately address severe underfunding of AIDS services through the Ryan White CARE Act. State waiting lists for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program are growing and sick

people are not able to get access to the drugs that will save their lives. At least three people have died while waiting to get on ADAP.

In California, the new administration of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed budget cuts that would result in closing enrollment to that state's ADAP program in January [see story, page 1]. Anne Donnelly, with Project Inform, urged the governor "to reconsider this ill-advised course of action and instead affirm a commitment to low income people who depend on these life-saving health care programs."

The recently passed Medicare bill, that includes prescription drug benefits for seniors, also threatens to cut off 50,000 younger people with AIDS who now get their drugs through that program. The changes do not go into effect until 2006, so there is time to address and correct these concerns, advocates noted. ▼

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Schwarzenegger lifts Rosenkrantz's parole hopes

by Ed Walsh

Supporters of gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz have reason to be hopeful that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will not stand in the way of his parole.

Since being sworn in last month, Schwarzenegger has approved parole in two out of the three cases that have come across his desk. Schwarzenegger's predecessor, Gray Davis, once vowed to block the parole of all convicted killers. In his five years in office, Davis allowed freedom for only eight of the nearly 300 life-sentence prisoners whose release was approved by the parole board. The board only approves release for about 1 percent of eligible prisoners.

"Governor Schwarzenegger intends to let the Board of Prison Terms do its job," Schwarzenegger's deputy press secretary, Vince Solitto, told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week. "Only when he has a strong conviction that a clear error has been made does he intend to review the granting or denial of parole."

Rosenkrantz, 36, was convicted of second-degree murder in Los Angeles County for the 1985 shooting death of a schoolmate who physically attacked him on the night of his high school graduation and later outed him to his parents.

Judy Greenspan of California Prison Focus has been one of Rosenkrantz's strongest advocates. She told the *B.A.R.* that she hopes Schwarzenegger will abide by the parole board's recommendations and ultimately allow for Rosenkrantz's freedom.



Robert Rosenkrantz

"I don't have a new cause for optimism but it does seem like the governor is relying on the parole board, which is a positive thing," Greenspan said. "It's tragic that we have to be overjoyed by a governor approving what the board decides."

Rosenkrantz's parole has been supported by the judge who presided over his case, the homicide investigator who arrested him, and the victim's late grandmother. The surviving family of the victim, Steve Redman, has declined the *B.A.R.*'s requests for comment. For the first time, the family formally opposed Rosenkrantz's parole at his last parole hearing in 2000. In a letter to the board, the family wrote that Rosenkrantz should serve at least the minimum of his 17-years-to-life sentence.

Rosenkrantz's fight for freedom has been tied up in the courts for more than four years. Two superior court judges and

two appeals court panels independently ruled that he had been illegally denied parole. But the state, under the direction of Davis, appealed those rulings at every turn. Finally last year the California Supreme Court sided with Davis, granting him a free hand to maintain his hard line against parole. Rosenkrantz's appeal to the federal courts is pending.

Rosenkrantz's next parole hearing is scheduled for January 5. Attorney Don Specter of The Prison Law Office, a nonprofit prisoners' rights group, told the *B.A.R.* that the parole board is still under court order to find Rosenkrantz suitable for parole and set a release date. Specter, who once represented Rosenkrantz, said that nothing substantial has changed in the case to negate the court's earlier order.

If the board approves Rosenkrantz's parole, the governor will then have to decide whether to block it. If Schwarzenegger simply does nothing, Rosenkrantz will be freed.

Specter said he is encouraged by Schwarzenegger's more liberal stance on parole.

Well-known appellate attorney Dennis Riordan will represent Rosenkrantz at his hearing next month. The San Francisco-based lawyer has handled a number of high-profile cases. Most recently, he represented Marjorie Knoller during the post-verdict stage of her case. Knoller was convicted of second-degree murder in connection with the fatal dog-mauling of San Francisco lesbian Diane Whipple. A judge later reduced that conviction to manslaughter. Riordan did not return the *B.A.R.*'s calls by press time. ▼

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SF attorney wins NGLTF award

by Zak Szymanski

When activists are dedicated to a cause – particularly efforts that often fall below the radar – they usually trade their personal time and finances for the greater good of the people they serve.

Such is the case with Shannon Minter, an attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Minter has greatly advanced transgender rights with his work, from establishing a youth project to prevent damaging therapies targeted at "repairing" children's gender identities to representing transgender father Michael Kantaras in last year's groundbreaking custody suit in Florida (Kantaras, who had to prove he was legally male and therefore legally married to his former spouse, won his case).

Recognizing these hard-earned accomplishments, the Anderson Prize Foundation last month announced that Minter had received the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's community service award. The award carries with it a cash prize of \$10,000 and is the third NGLTF community service award to be given out of a four-year program funded by the Anderson Prize Foundation. The foundation, which also funds the annual Stonewall Awards, was set up to honor those who have made



NCLR attorney Shannon Minter

great contributions to the LGBT community. It is named for the late Paul Anderson of Chicago and run by his surviving partner, Allen Schuh.

"Shannon's personal dedication to his work – often representing considerable financial sacrifice – has benefited both the local community and the nation," said a statement from the Anderson Prize Foundation.

The *Bay Area Reporter* was unable to reach Minter for comment.

Minter, himself a transgender individual, is known as one of the country's leading litigators on behalf of transgender people. The Kantaras case not only made his

tory, but was broadcast on Court TV, reaching and potentially educating millions of people. Minter's other noteworthy contributions include winning asylum for a Mexican transgender youth in 2000; and authoring several amicus briefs, including one for the wrongful death lawsuit filed on behalf of Brandon Teena.

Minter is also known for his drafting legislation to prohibit discrimination against transgenders. He is the co-author, along with Paisley Currah, of *Transgender Equality: A Handbook for Activists and Policy Makers*, used by activists and legislators across the country. He also helped to draft and enact last year's AB196, Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) groundbreaking housing and employment antidiscrimination law. He is working toward passing and enacting similar legislation at the federal level.

In addition to his work at NCLR, Minter is a founding member of the Transgender Law and Policy Institute, and San Francisco's Transgender Law Center. He has taught at a number of law schools, including Stanford, Boalt, Golden Gate, and the University of San Francisco. He serves on the board of directors of Equality California and on the advisory board of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. ▼

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OPEN FORUM

Tuesday's vote is critical

It's that time of year again – San Francisco's December 9 runoff election for mayor and district attorney is just days away. The choices couldn't be more clear to us – as we did in last month's general election, we're recommending voters choose Supervisor Gavin Newsom for mayor and deputy city attorney Kamala Harris for district attorney.

Mayor's race

In the runoff race for mayor, Newsom has continued to emphasize his earnest desire to move the city forward, and we believe he will do just that if elected. Newsom has spent more than a year now campaigning to reform the city's intractable homeless situation, which continues to be the top concern among San Franciscans. At Tuesday's final televised mayoral debate, Newsom reiterated that his homeless plan is a first step, and one that would provide services for the homeless rather than cash assistance. Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, Newsom's challenger, opposes Care Not Cash, yet has no specific plan to address the problem. He has twice ducked questions during the televised forums (once Tuesday and once during a debate before last month's election) about how he would handle one aspect of homelessness. Earlier he refused to answer a question about whether he would allow the homeless to sleep in Golden Gate Park; on Tuesday he skipped over a similar question about police citations for the homeless. The bottom line is that many San Franciscans want progress on the city's homeless situation. Newsom has pledged to make change.

In contrast, Gonzalez is running as a reformer, but has not put forth details about how or what he will reform. He has been critical of Mayor Brown's commission appointments, but voted for Supervisor Chris Daly's nominee to the Public Utilities Commission (made while Daly briefly served as acting mayor) – an appointment that was not publicly discussed by the board as the others are and was in fact, made in secret. That's open government? Newsom says he will keep politics out of the appointment process, and

wants the best qualified people for the posts.

Party affiliation is also an issue in the race; Newsom is a Democrat, Gonzalez is a Green. At Tuesday's forum, Newsom said that he's his own person and that

"I'm not interested in moving away from the Brown machine to create a Green machine."

The next mayor of San Francisco must work with everyone, not only at the local level, but with political leaders at the state and federal levels. Gavin Newsom will be the more effective advocate and leader for all of San Francisco.

District attorney's race

In the D.A.'s race, Kamala Harris, who used to work for incumbent District Attorney Terence Hallinan, is the clear choice, and has support from a broad swath of the city – from residents in the Bayview to civic leaders and the legal community. Harris is a

breath of fresh air in the race; and after eight long years of Hallinan's largely ineffective administration, Harris is truly the candidate who can restore confidence and professionalism to the office.

Harris supports medical marijuana (one of Hallinan's few good points) but more than that, we believe her to be a capable administrator who can work with the police department and the community to improve effective law enforcement. She opposes the death penalty and is a strong advocate of diversion programs for nonviolent offenders. She knows the system, and knows how it can be improved.

Harris has been endorsed by all three gay newspapers – no small feat in our diverse community – and that pretty much says it all.

On Tuesday, we strongly urge readers to vote for Gavin Newsom for mayor and Kamala Harris for district attorney. ▼



Editorial



Why SF needs Harris as D.A.

by Patricia Amador-Lacson, David Chiu, Lovely Dhillon, Friné Eger-Gelston, Libby Liu, Stella Ngai, Thanh Ngo, Andrew Vu, and Michael Weiss

As former San Francisco assistant district attorneys, we write to strongly encourage your support for Kamala Harris for D.A. on Tuesday, December 9. Collectively we represent a rainbow of communities – none of us is part of any "political machine" – who became prosecutors to promote restorative justice within the criminal justice system. We were progressive young lawyers, not your typical district attorney prototype, who were lured by the liberal agenda promoted by Terence Hallinan in his first term. We believed that Hallinan would take a non-traditional approach to criminal prosecution and we were excited to be part of it.

In the beginning, things looked promising. Under the leadership of Chief Assistant Dick Iglehart, we saw positive change and felt that we were accomplishing what we set out to do. During this period, Kamala Harris was recruited from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office to manage the career criminal unit of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. Already a veteran prosecutor of 10 years, Kamala immediately became a natural leader among us. As head of the career criminal unit, Kamala carried her own caseload, took cases to trial where she secured convictions, and was respected office-wide for her trial skills, her intelligence, and her compassion. Moreover, Kamala often took time out of her busy schedule to counsel the less experienced attorneys, helping us analyze cases and prepare for trial. Kamala personified progressive, effective, compassionate leadership.

Then, in January 2000, Governor Gray Davis appointed Iglehart to the California Superior Court, and things began to fall apart. Terence ignored pleas from within the office to appoint Kamala as the new chief assistant, and instead hired Darrell Solomon, an attorney with no experience as a prosecutor. The office quickly became seriously dysfunctional. The management of the office became highly politicized. Promotions were handed out for political reasons rather than merit. Morale plummeted. The older, more experienced assistant D.A.s were relegated to low-profile positions. Some were forced out. Crimes were not prosecuted consistently. As the atmosphere in the office worsened, a long exodus of many bright, talented attorneys began, and the office morale sank to new lows.

We encouraged Kamala to run for district attorney because San Francisco deserves a competent, professional, well-managed District Attorney's Office. San Francisco also deserves a prosecutor who will show leadership on the sensitive issues we care about – effective diversion programs and treatment for non-violent first-time offenders, defense of medical marijuana, opposition to the death penalty, support for police reform, and real compassion for victims of crime.

We have no doubt that Kamala is committed to diversion programs and rehabilitation, and other non-traditional ways of breaking cycles of incarceration. Kamala will protect and defend access to medical marijuana. With respect to the death penalty, Kamala has pledged to lead a statewide effort to impose a moratorium on executions. Kamala supports police reform and will work to restore the public's faith in our criminal justice system. From her 13 years

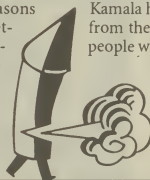
as a prosecutor, Kamala well understands the pain and suffering experienced by victims of crime and will bring to the position her extraordinary compassion.

We know from working with both Kamala and Terence, that Kamala is every bit as progressive as people believe Terence to be, and Kamala has the skill, experience, and vision to effectively lead this important office. And we aren't the only ones who think so. Kamala has received overwhelming support from the San Francisco legal community – people who pay close attention to the office of the district attorney. She has been endorsed by every bar association that has endorsed in this race, including the LGBT bar association Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, plus the following bar associations: Charles Houston (African American), Vietnamese, Asian, Korean

American, Queen's Bench (women lawyers), and South Asian. Besides private and public lawyers and retired judges, Kamala has also built bridges across San Francisco's political spectrum, garnering the support of many of our most respected civic leaders. She is endorsed by Assemblyman Mark Leno, city Treasurer Susan Leal, former Supervisors Harry Britt and Leslie Katz, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, community college board member Lawrence Wong, former Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, Tim Wolfred, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, former City Attorney Louise Renne, Sheriff Mike Hennessey, Supervisors Fiona Ma, Aaron Peskin, and Sophie Maxwell, and former District Attorney Arlo Smith, to name a few – plus the Pride Alliance of LGBT San Francisco Police officers.

We all agree. It's time for a new district attorney. Please vote on Tuesday, December 9 for Kamala Harris. ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Mixed message

I am voting for Gavin Newsom for mayor even though I voted for Tom Ammiano in the first round. I was at the candlelight vigil and heard Supervisor Ammiano give one of the best speeches of his career but then Tom Ammiano asked me to vote for Matt Gonzalez.

Mr. Ammiano, where is your dignity? How dare you use a ceremony honoring two slain men to advance a political career!

I am voting for Gavin Newsom. Why? I saw Gavin walking with supporters and being very dignified; no fanfare, no signs, just walking and honoring two men who gave their lives to make San Francisco a better place. That is what I want in my next mayor.

Rob Kline
San Francisco

San Francisco needs a new DA

The city of San Francisco needs a new district attorney, and Kamala Harris is the right person for the job. As a police inspector, I have had many opportunities to work with Kamala on criminal cases. I have found her to be a no-nonsense prosecutor who demands that cases brought to her be thorough and that the investigating officer leave no stone unturned. She demands the same of herself, and her work ethic is impeccable. I have seen Kamala both in a courtroom, and her interactions with the victims in criminal cases. She is compassionate and will work as hard and as long as it takes to make sure a case reaches the right conclusion, not just the quickest one.

Over the last eight years, I have seen some of the most qualified, and highly respected assistant district attorneys leave our D.A.'s office, some because they were fired, and some because of the way the office was being run. These individuals either went to other jurisdictions to continue their work as prosecutors, or into private practice. Those losses meant we did not just lose those individuals, but we lost their countless years of experience.

We need a district attorney that will bring experience back to the D.A.'s office, a district attorney who will demand quality, ethics, and compassion, in every prosecutor that works for her. We need Kamala Harris for district attorney.

Lea Militello, Sergeant/Inspector, SFPD
Co-Chair, San Francisco Police Officers Pride Alliance

Mayoral race and homelessness

When I hear people talk about homelessness in San Francisco, I usually hear things like, "I'm tired of people asking for money," or "I don't want to smell urine every time I walk down the street." It surprises me that the people who are most vociferous about not wanting those things are the least sensible about how to find real solutions to homelessness. I've looked at both candidates' proposals and it seems that Matt Gonzalez has the only plan that identifies actual revenue sources to pay for programs. Conversely, Gavin Newsom seems more interested in hiding homelessness from the public and tourists without offering a real alternative. Solving the issue of homelessness is important to me not only because it's not fun to smell urine walking around the city but because people who are homeless deserve real support in changing their lives.

Sarah Dotlich
San Francisco

Newsom's positive changes

As a gay resident of San Francisco for 14 years, I support Gavin Newsom because he has made significant positive changes for our city and plans to address even more important issues. He has published 21 policy papers to address areas important to San Franciscans. Gavin supports rent control to help keep our city affordable. And over the years, he has been a supporter of the LGBT community and has consistently backed that up with legislation.

I could go on about Gavin's positive accomplishments and proposals for our city, but instead I'll just refer readers to his Web site at www.gavinnewsom.com, which has a link called "On the Issues" at the top of the site. There you can see for yourself what Gavin has accomplished and the vision he has for the future of our incredible city.

Scott Oswald
San Francisco

Impressed by Gonzalez

Recently, I was passing by Harvey Milk Plaza at Castro and Market when I observed a Matt Gonzalez rally taking place. Until two weeks ago, I was not very excited about the upcoming mayoral race. I must say that I was so impressed by what I heard and saw that day; it really helped me feel good about my recent decision to vote for Matt Gonzalez. There were people of all walks of life speaking in support of Matt. The speeches felt very real to me. It didn't sound political or rehearsed, just real people talking about real ideas

and values. I'm proud to be voting for Matt Gonzalez for mayor.

Mary Rick
San Francisco

Democrat for Newsom

As a gay Democrat I am pissed off that a so-called Democratic club, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, would vote to endorse Matt Gonzalez, who is a Green, for mayor. I'm a Democrat and only vote for Democrats. Do you hear me Carole Migden, Chris Daly, and Tom Ammiano? How dare you endorse non-Democrats. You should be ashamed of yourselves. If you don't like what the Democratic Party is doing, then leave it. Otherwise, you are simply hiding within the party to advance your own careers.

Harvey Milk was a Democrat who changed ideas and perceptions about gay men and women by working within the Democratic Party structure. He would have never endorsed a candidate from another party over a Democratic one.

Harvey Milk is probably spinning in his grave.

Philip Hooper
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden has not endorsed a candidate in the mayor's race.]

The only candidate with Democratic values

We were thrilled to see Tom Ammiano finally endorse Matt Gonzalez at the candlelight vigil in honor of Harvey Milk. As a lesbian and gay man who did not move to San Francisco until the early 1990s, we only learned of Milk and his legacy from the news. But his actions inspired two scared and closeted kids that there was hope. Twenty-five years later, we find hope in Matt Gonzalez.

Matt first got our attention during his run for Board of Supervisors. We were not Green but identified with Matt's disillusionment with an increasingly corrupt and righter-by-the-minute Democratic Party that failed to adequately address issues such as oppression, poverty, and environmental destruction. Matt earned our respect not only because of his reasons for changing parties (including the Democrats' opposition to gay marriage), but because of the integrity with which he did so. Rather than playing it safe and waiting until he was elected, he wanted the voters to know who they were voting for. And we did!

The race for mayor of San Francisco is not about party affiliation. It is about values. Matt Gonzalez is the only candidate who has proven, beyond the sound bite, that he is passionate about finding real solutions to poverty and homelessness without criminalizing the poor, protecting the environment and fighting environmental racism, prioritizing schools without cutting vital social services, supporting alternative transportation, bringing reform to city government, expanding rental and home ownership opportunities, and improving the economy for all San Franciscans. We hope members of the LGBTIQ community will join us in support of these values and vote for Matt Gonzalez.

Jen Reck and Michael Mayer
San Francisco

Proud lesbian for Newsom

One of my proudest moments while working on the Gavin Newsom for Mayor campaign wasn't seeing the press conference where Susan Leal and Assemblyman Mark Leno endorsed Gavin Newsom. It wasn't watching Supervisor Newsom finish so far ahead of all the other candidates in the first round of voting in November. It was being present at the LGBT Community Center with many other volunteers when Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon both endorsed Gavin Newsom. It made me proud to be a lesbian.

Matt Gonzalez's inability to get support from leading women is troubling. Leaders whom I admire, including Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, state Senator Jackie Speier, City Treasurer Susan Leal, Angela Alioto, Supervisor Fiona Ma, Assessor Mabel Teng, former Assessor Doris Ward, former Supervisors Willie Kennedy, Roberta Achtenberg, and Leslie Katz, are all endorsing Gavin Newsom. I think there's a good reason for this - Newsom's programs will empower women and his administration will give us a prominent role to play in implementing his policies. That's why he has this woman's vote.

Catherine Williams
San Francisco

Renter for Matt

I may want to buy a home someday and I also want to be able to feel secure as a renter. Matt Gonzalez is the only candidate who can ensure that both homeowners and renters will be secure. On the other hand, Gavin Newsom would lead us down another unsound path of poorly planned development. We need to di-

next page ►

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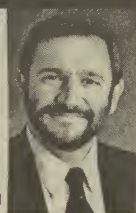
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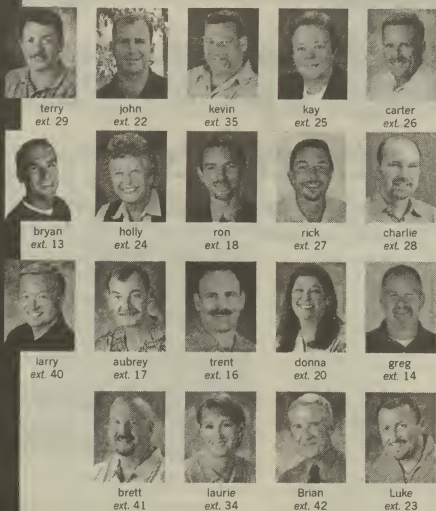
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versify this city's economy to make sure we aren't devastated by another boom-bust cycle. I will feel a lot more confident about the quality of life here when Matt Gonzalez becomes our next mayor.

June Brashares
San Francisco

Newsom's on point

One may say what they wish regarding Gavin Newsom's background. However, the man has been on point regarding quality of life issues, San Francisco's business environment, and the direction in which he feels the city needs to go since day one. In addition, to my knowledge, he has never changed party affiliation, unlike the other candidate running for mayor.

For these reasons alone Gavin gets my vote and should get the vote of anyone who truly cares about the future of this wonderful city.

Patrick Batt
San Francisco

No other choice

There are many different aspects to my life that determine how I will vote in the runoff election. I ride Muni, many of my friends depend on rent control to be able to continue to live in San Francisco, and like many of my friends, I am appalled at how our democracy has been hijacked by the special interests of corporations and big money. I long for a political system where the voters are more important than re-election or huge campaign contributions. I grew up near Chicago, Illinois, so I understand the down side of political machines, even when they are Democrats. After seeing some of the horrible mailers proudly displaying the stamp of the Democratic Party, but looking more like Bush administration propaganda, there is no way I will forget to vote in this election.

When I lived in Berlin, Germany, a few years ago I was envious of my gay friends who had joined the Green Party. In their system a third party has some real power. The Green Party is the only political party that has consistently represented queer issues without running for cover during serious, important discussions about real equality for gays and lesbians. In Germany the Greens are now a part of the coalition government, partly because of their unconditional support of real equality for gays and lesbians.

On December 9, I will vote for Matt Gonzalez for mayor. It will feel good to vote my conscience instead of towing the party line because there is no other choice.

Robert Starkey, a.k.a. The Truth Fairy
San Francisco

Green denial

Denial is denial, whether you're Green or not. Patrick Connors's defense of Ralph Nader [Mailstrom, November 27] is a prime example.

Nader polled some 70,000 votes in Florida. Bush "won" the state by some 500 votes. Do the math! Almost none of those votes would have gone to Bush; more than 65,000 voters would not have stayed home if Nader hadn't been in the race. Whether Al Gore accepted Bill Clinton's help, won Tennessee, or ran a good campaign is irrelevant.

Face it, Nader was the spoiler in Florida, denying Gore the presidency. If Gore were president right now, our environmental regulations would not lie in tatters, we wouldn't be ludicrously "thinning" the wilderness, increasing the pollution of air, water, and food, or be studying a new generation of nuclear weapons. Ralph Nader could have struck a deal with Gore in exchange for his support. He (or another Green) might have been, say, secretary of the interior instead of that moron Gale Norton. Nader could have advanced Green policy instead of enabling environmental destruction.

I fully support Matt Gonzales for mayor of San Francisco. But I cannot support the Green Party as long as it continues to put its own self-interest ahead of the very ideals for which it stands.

Ken Rackow
San Francisco

Community should help with bust

Matt Gonzalez asked me last winter to help raise funds for a bust of Harvey Milk in City Hall ["Is the Milk bust a bust?" November 13]. At the time it was estimated that it would cost \$50,000-\$100,000. Matt felt the community should fund this memorial and not the city. Matt is fiscally responsible. The days of the city giving out money to every community project are behind us. I came from liberal Minneapolis-St. Paul where the general public and corporations funded the arts and other community projects. From my perspective this was not a failure of Matt's leadership. The GLBT community has not taken responsibility for this wonderful proposal.

If Matt is elected mayor this wonderful proposal will be realized. But more importantly we will have a mayor much like Harvey Milk. Matt is a listener; his door at City Hall has been open to a dialogue to all

kinds of people. He is passionate but also pragmatic. He works well with people who often disagree with him like Supervisor Tony Hall. And most important he cannot be bought and will not trade dollars for political favors. He is a big person who does not hold grudges. I supported Tom Ammiano in the November election and we have resumed our good working relationship.

Phil Willkie
San Francisco

Yes, blame Canada

This is a response to Ms. Robin Tyler's letter of November 20 where she criticizes the Federation of Gay Games for trying to micromanage the Montreal Gay Games without assuming any responsibility. These are my personal reactions, not the federation's.

It was Celebration '90 that formally "festivalized" the Gay Games, opening the door to a lot of the non-sport activities that would eventually bankrupt subsequent hosts. Be it the extravagant Opening/Closing ceremonies of Vancouver, NYC, and Amsterdam, the NYC City Center Bill Jones Dance event of Unity NY '94 (a \$250K loss), or the numerous Sydney parties that went bust, the shift in emphasis toward a festival with some bolted-on sports activities has been at the root of the financial problem.

The federation has the records, the financial statements, and the databases since 1994 to prove it. To say that the federation has not turned over this information to each successive host is absurd. But what is more ridiculous is that each successive host has repeated the same mistakes (over the objections of the federation) as if to expect a different result.

I am one of 45 who have competed at every Gay Games, and I have a lot of my life invested in the Gay Games movement. I remember sitting on the field of opening and closing ceremonies for Celebration '90, listening to the high-minded ideals of Sven Robinson and Robin Tyler. But it was hard to appreciate their words, when I was pricing the extravagance of hot air balloons, knowing that I had to unexpectedly shell out close to \$300 for "supplies" that week in order for the wrestling event to come off.

The only good to come of this entire Montreal episode is that we are finally going to expose that man behind the curtain, the festival moguls and tourism boards that pollute the process with conflicts of interest and bad data. The bid documents prepared by the host tourism boards have been nothing short of embarrassing fabrications, such that the federation was prohibited from circulating them in 1999/2000 to potential sponsors. It is different than the blatant corruption of the International Olympic Committee. Federation directors try to be professional, but are at the mercy of the data and research provided them by the bidding cities. There is no mechanism for formal professional authentication and verification of the bids.

The ugly truth is that the athletes, who make up 90 percent of the registrations, are subsidizing a huge festival over and beyond the sports component with constantly rising fees that could total \$200 (U.S.) per athlete if Montreal got its way. The results of the federation survey of 9,000 athletes from Sydney is quite clear (www.gaygames.org). The Gay Games constituents, the athletes, the people who are paying perhaps 65 percent of the bottom line, overwhelmingly want a smaller, more sports focused event, not another Pride festival. It has taken 12 years, but the results are in, and they are incontrovertible. We must reverse the festival model that Vancouver Celebration '90 hoisted on the Gay Games movement, and get back to the basics, a multi-sport event.

Any other comparable event like the Olympics would have similar license agreement requirements dealing with financial milestones and audits between the host city and the IOC. Montreal's position is without precedent in the world of license agreements, a brand is always licensed with strings attached, and it is not called "micromanagement."

Gene Dermody
San Francisco

Thanks to Real Bad

All of us at the Stonewall Project wish to express our deepest gratitude to the circle of friends who put on Real Bad XV. That they chose the Stonewall Project as one of the beneficiaries this year is truly an honor. It means a lot to all of us at the Stonewall Project, including staff, clients, and peer educators, to be recognized and supported this way. It's gratifying that the community recognizes both our work and the huge need for services for the many gay men who use crystal. Whether it's helping those who want to quit using speed or providing information and education to those who want to reduce the harms of using meth, these funds will enable us to provide more services to more gay men in San Francisco.

For more information about gay men and crystal meth, please visit our Web site www.twaker.org.

Thanks so much and keep up the great work!

Michael D. Siever, Ph.D., Program Director
The Stonewall Project
Division of Substance and Addiction Medicine
UCSF Dept. of Psychiatry at SF General Hospital

POLITICS

Newsom for mayor; Harris for D.A.

by Wayne Friday

On Tuesday, December 9, San Francisco voters will go back to the polls to elect a new mayor, and, hopefully, a new district attorney in the runoff election.

I don't hesitate for a moment to urge those, who believe as I do that respecting the will of voters is important, to vote December 9 for **Gavin Newsom** for mayor. One of the numerous reasons I think Newsom is the best candidate in this election is that where Newsom listens to the will of the voters, his Green Party opponent, **Matt Gonzalez**, clearly projects a "my-way-or-nothing" attitude. Case in point: Care Not Cash, Newsom's first step for addressing the serious homeless problem in this city. San Francisco voters overwhelmingly approved Care Not Cash (Proposition N) while Gonzalez strongly opposed the plan, which is surely his right, but he later blocked its implementation at the Board of Supervisors, clearly flaunting the will of the electorate.

Tenancies-in-common is yet another example. It's an affordable home ownership plan particularly critical to lesbians and gays. San Francisco voters decisively rejected restricting TICs, as did Newsom. Gonzalez, however, and others on the board, restricted them anyway, causing great harm to our community, and, again, arrogantly defying the public will.

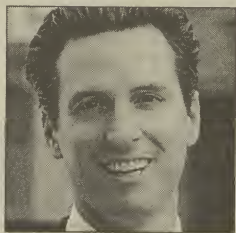
Closing Golden Gate Park to automobiles on Saturdays? Twice voters said no, but Gonzalez is still determined to close it anyway.

Gonzalez seems more determined in building up membership in his Green Party than in solving this city's problems. Newsom has concrete plans to address the homeless problem and revive our economy with good jobs, making it possible for more of us to live in a city that we love and where we are all free to live as we choose.

Newsom has concrete plans for housing for the city's middle class, so that people who are not wealthy can also afford to live a life in San Francisco. Gonzalez, it is fair to point out, despite all of his "progressive" rhetoric, has yet to define any realistic ideas for these or any other pressing issues.

While much of the city has pressing problems, it cannot go unnoticed that Gonzalez has failed – badly – to even begin to address the growing homeless and drug-dealing problems in the very district he represents (District 5, the Haight). You merely have to ask those who live in that district.

Newsom knows that public education is particularly important and voted to support Supervisor **Tom Ammiano's** charter amendment allocating \$60 million over the next few years to public schools. In stark contrast, Gonzalez used his vote on the board to oppose the proposed Ammiano amendment. Is there maybe something this "progressive" Columbia and Stanford grad has against public schools that we should know about?



Mayoral candidate Gavin Newsom

I'm also impressed by the number of prominent women who are active in the Newsom campaign – respected women in our own community like Treasurer **Susan Leal**, former Supervisors **Roberta Achtenberg** and **Leslie Katz**, and lesbian pioneers **Phyllis Lyon** and **Del Martin**. Other women who have been longtime champions of our causes like Democratic Senators **Dianne Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**, Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco), Supervisor **Fiona Ma**, former Supervisor **Angela Alioto**, Assessor **Mabel Teng** and former Assessor **Doris Ward** are also

active in the Newsom campaign. Unlike Gonzalez, Newsom campaigned hard last year for openly gay District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**, who along with Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) are among the many LGBT leaders actively supporting Newsom for mayor.

It has not gone unnoticed either that during the recent campaign, Newsom pointedly never criticized or attacked fellow candidate Ammiano, but Gonzalez's supporters quietly put out the message to fellow progressives that Ammiano wasn't electable because he was "too gay." This is indeed a progressive city, but if those are the particular progressives that Gonzalez wants running City Hall, we're in a lot of trouble.

Gonzalez makes no secret of trying to destroy the Democratic Party while trying to build up his own Green Party. San Francisco, one of the true strong Democratic bastions in the state, will benefit from having a bright, young qualified Democrat like Newsom in the mayor's office.

Admittedly, I have not yet forgotten that it was the party of **Ralph Nader** (and Matt Gonzalez) that stole the 2000 Florida election from Democrat **Al Gore**, a move that resulted in landing **George W. Bush** in the White House, and eventually getting this country into a senseless war. You get the message – join me in voting for Democrat Gavin Newsom for mayor on Tuesday.

District attorney

In the runoff for district attorney we're truly fortunate to have the opportunity not only to get rid of an incompetent incumbent, but to replace him with an extraordinarily qualified challenger.

Terence Hallinan has had eight years to show what he could do. He talks a good talk about "progressive prosecution," but has this guy walked the walk? Hallinan has stumbled and fumbled, but



D.A. candidate Kamala Harris

most tragically, he has caused people to wonder whether a progressive approach to law enforcement is really a good idea. Hallinan has for years advanced himself as being "the most progressive D.A. in America." That's all fine – but, how about being both progressive and effective?

Kamala Harris will restore peoples' faith that enlightened policies around medical marijuana, diversion of non-violent offenders, mental health and substance abuse treatment for quality-of-life violators, and community-based crime prevention efforts are the way to go.

I've had the pleasure of accompanying Harris as she's campaigned across the city. I've seen her with the mothers of gun and gang violence victims in the Mission and the Bayview. I've seen her twist the arms of downtown corporate leaders and get them committed to providing job training opportunities for at-risk youth who otherwise might be seduced into gang life. I've seen her facilitate conversations between transgenders and police brass, to end misunderstandings and abuse. That's why the transgender community in San Francisco is solidly behind Harris in this campaign.

Harris moves easily in and is respected from the Sunnydale housing projects to downtown corporate board rooms. Everyone who meets her comes away impressed by her energy, intelligence, and commitment to restoring the integrity and professionalism of the district attorney's office, and without exception, they come away feeling confident that she can do the job.

Long before she became a candidate, Harris was out in the community, pulling together social service agencies, the health department, community activists, and law enforcement to devise new and effective approaches to domestic violence, sexual exploitation of children – including teenage prostitution – and gang violence. In the end, these cooperative efforts are necessary, and Hallinan has been totally missing in action. He can't even work with the police department, which must be the number one partner with any district attorney truly committed to fighting crime.

In our community, Harris is supported by all three gay newspapers, the lesbian/gay San Francisco Police Officers Pride Alliance, Assemblyman Mark Leno, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Ambassador **Jim Hormel**, Treasurer **Susan Leal**, former Supervisor **Harry Britt**, and hundreds of others who know what we all know – it's truly time for a change in the D.A.'s office, and Kamala Harris will definitely be a change for the better. Vote Tuesday for Kamala Harris for district attorney. ▼

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What were the Denver Principles?

by Liz Highleyman

December 1981 (22 years ago this month): Bobbi Campbell comes out publicly as a person with "gay cancer," soon to be known as AIDS.

The AIDS epidemic has had a profound effect on the LGBT community, bringing many people out of the closet for the first time and influencing the attitudes of government officials and the public toward gay men. It also spurred major changes in how people with a disease relate to the medical establishment.

The earliest years of the epidemic were fraught with fear and uncertainty as gay men confronted the burgeoning health crisis. Despite the climate of secrecy, some men took the courageous step of acknowledging that they had the "gay cancer" that would soon become known as AIDS.

In San Francisco, Bobbi Campbell, a registered nurse and a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence—a drag troupe of gay men dressed as nuns—recognized the need to put a face to the new disease. In December 1981, he came out in the pages of the local gay newspaper, *The Sentinel*, and in 1983, he appeared with his lover on the cover of *Newsweek* magazine, earning him the title of "AIDS Poster Boy."

Pioneering AIDS physician Marcus Conant suggested that Campbell and another man he was treating, Dan Turner, get together to discuss their experiences. Out of this meeting grew People with AIDS San Francisco, the first advocacy group by and for people with the disease. In May 1983, Campbell was among those who led the first-ever candlelight march organized by people with AIDS, behind a banner proclaiming "Fighting for Our Lives."

In New York City, Phil Lanzaratta did several early news interviews and wrote a personal account of living with AIDS for *Christopher Street* magazine. In 1982, Michael Callen and Richard Berkowitz, who had been intro-

duced by their doctor, Joseph Sonnabend, attended one of the first peer support groups for people with AIDS at Beth Israel Hospital, as well as early meetings of Gay Men's Health Crisis. But, Callen later recalled, he grew frustrated with GMHC forums "where those of us with AIDS would sit silently in the audience and hear doctors, nurses, lawyers, insurance experts, and [social workers] tell us what it was like to have AIDS." The two soon formed a new group called Gay Men with AIDS.

In June 1983, Campbell, Turner, Lanzaratta, Callen, Berkowitz, and about 10 other gay men with AIDS attended the Second National AIDS Forum, part of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in Denver. During an ad-hoc meeting, the men hashed out their visions for a self-empowerment movement and a national network of people with AIDS.

One point of contention for them concerned how gay men could stay healthy without sacrificing their hard-won sexual freedom. Some of these men had been trailblazers in developing the concept of safer sex. In 1982, for example, Campbell and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence produced "Play Fair," the first safer-sex brochure, and Callen and Berkowitz wrote a controversial article for the *New York Native* entitled "We Know Who We Are: Two Gay Men Declare War on Promiscuity." Callen, a self-proclaimed "slut," and Berkowitz, a former hustler, had come to believe that rampant sex and drug use could wreak havoc on the immune system. In 1983, the two published "How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: One Approach," which emphasized risk-reduction measures such as condom use.

At the end of the conference, the small group of people with AIDS took the stage before the keynote speaker and read a statement that became known as the Denver Principles. "We condemn attempts to label us as 'victims,' a

term which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally 'patients,' a term which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others. We are people with AIDS," they declared. Among the 11 principles, the PWAs asserted their right "to be involved at every level of decision-making," "to be involved in all AIDS forums with equal credibility," and "to die—and to live—in dignity." The statement was met with a moment of stunned silence, followed by 10 minutes of applause.

The inspiration from the Denver meeting fueled the creation of countless local PWA groups, community research initiatives, buyers' clubs to procure alternative therapies and unapproved pharmaceuticals, and the National Association of Peo-

ple with AIDS. "We came to Denver as sick people and left as activists," Berkowitz later wrote. "We marched in parades, testified before legislatures, started newsletters and hot lines, organized PWA coalitions. Against a barrage of medical reports that an AIDS diagnosis was a death sentence and media images of PWAs as disfigured monsters, we gave the most stigmatized disease of our time a human face."

Several of the PWAs at the Denver meeting, including Campbell, died soon thereafter, but a few became long-term survivors. Callen gained renown as a singer-songwriter, both as a soloist and with the capella group the Flirtations. He gave his final performance at the 1993 March on Washington, before dying of AIDS later that year. Berkowitz, still alive today and the group's sole survivor, went on to write a book

(published this year) about the invention of safer sex. ▼

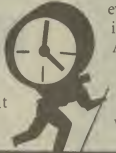
Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@black-rose.com.

Suggested reading

Berkowitz, Richard. 2003. *Stayin' Alive: The Invention of Safe Sex* (Westview Press).

Callen, Michael. 1990. *Surviving AIDS* (Harper Collins).

Shilts, Randy. 1987. *And the Band Played On* (St. Martin's).



Past Out

Project Inform launches a new hotline and cable TV campaign

by Zak Szymanski

Monday, December 1 was World AIDS Day. It was also the unveiling of a unique collaboration between the cable industry and a local HIV/AIDS organization.

Access SF/Cable Channel 29 and Project Inform have teamed up to air a public service announcement that publicizes Project Inform's new toll-free hotline number and provides a cohesive message for people seeking a safe and confidential place to sort out HIV care and treatment options. The 30-second advertisements are running regularly on Channel 29, and plans call for the announcements to continue through June of next year.

While the agency will keep the old hotline number, the new one was established because it's more recognizable, Project Inform staff said.

The PSAs were made possible through a \$5,000 grant from Cable Positive, the national organization of industry insiders dedicated to responding to HIV/AIDS.

Channel 29's Marc Smolowitz told the *Bay Area Reporter* that part of his job is to track various grants available, and when he spotted the Cable Positive opportunity, he pitched a partnership to several San Francisco organizations.

"It was Project Inform," said Smolowitz, "that really stepped up



Project Inform's Ellen LaPointe

to the partnership."

"We are thrilled to be working with Access SF on this project as any opportunity that helps us amplify our message of hope is a welcome one," said Project Inform Executive Director Ellen LaPointe.

The team worked together for months to develop a plan to pitch for the grant.

"We had to have a very developed partnership agreement with them before even beginning to write the grant proposal," said Smolowitz. "Cable Positive has a rigorous set of criteria for how they evaluate their grant applications."

It was a bit risky to spend so much energy on a project that was not necessarily a given, said Smolowitz, but "we were very

confident about our working relationship and knew that the final product would eventually have a place somewhere."

Cable Positive announced in October that Channel 29 had won the money to produce Project Inform's PSA. With a quick turnaround time, the team "fast tracked production," said Smolowitz, to ensure a World AIDS Day launch.

Project Inform's Jeff Ward told the *B.A.R.* that the agency's hotline saw a 20 percent increase in calls in 2002 and that so far, the increase is holding steady for 2003, though final figures won't be available until after the end of the year.

"It really suggests a real need" for the hotline, Ward added.

For Project Inform, the new PSAs coincide with its upcoming outdoor media campaign planned for bus shelters and BART stations. As for Channel 29, the station has committed to helping Project Inform place the PSAs on additional cable channels. The channel is proud, said Smolowitz, that its community outreach has been so successful.

"It's the first time we've really reached out in a broad sweeping way around this kind of grant partnership," said Smolowitz.

More information on the PSAs can be found at www.cablepositive.org/programs-psas.html. Project Inform's new HIV/AIDS information hotline is 1-866-HIV-INFO. ▼

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Have tea with the mayoral candidates

by Cynthia Laird

With the mayoral runoff election less than a week away, one Castro area merchant has decided to open his business for "tea time" with the candidates this weekend.

Jesse Jacobs, of Samovar Tea

Lounge, announced that Board of Supervisors President and mayoral candidate Matt Gonzalez will be at the tea lounge this Saturday, December 6, from 12:30-1 p.m. and will be available to answer questions. Supervisor Gavin Newsom, the other mayoral candidate, expects to stop by but the details were still

being finalized at press time, Jacobs said.

Jacobs believes the gay vote is critical in the upcoming election, which has tightened in recent weeks. The Castro, Noe Valley, Glen Park, and Upper Market/Eureka Valley neighborhoods had one of the highest

page 27 ►

COMMENTARY

The not-so-civil marriage debate

by Paula Martinac

The recent ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on same-sex marriage was a historic step toward our full equality under the law. Given its significance, we should all be thrilled and energized. But instead, the decision has left some of us uneasy about the ugly antigay backlash already taking shape.

Right-wingers are claiming to be enraged by the decision, but, in fact, they're buoyed by the prospect of securing a second term for Bush over the wedge issue of marriage. Antigay legislators and lobbyists seeking to exorcise the same-sex marriage demon through a federal amendment have thrown their efforts into overdrive.

Making these political maneuvers worse is the barrage of media coverage dissecting same-sex relationships and why they do or do not deserve legal recognition. Although a number of reports and editorials have been supportive of the Massachusetts ruling, many have been vicious. On her radio program, Sandy Rios, president of Concerned Women for America, urged listeners to stop gay marriage, or it will lead to "the American public disintegrating and ... our enemies overtaking us because we have no moral will." (Read: Gay people are to blame for September 11.)

It's easy to dismiss Rios and others like her as loose cannons. But what about the kinder, gentler conservatives of whom gay Republicans are so fond? National Public Radio, usually a left-leaning source of commentary, recently aired hurtful remarks by the *National Review's* Stanley Kurtz, who made the bizarre claim that gay marriage would ultimately work to the detriment of all American children. According to Kurtz, when straights can't claim marriage as their own anymore, they'll simply stop marrying, and their children will no longer enjoy the stability that marital unions bring. (Read: Gay people will be to blame for deadbeat straight parents.)

What makes "theories" like this more insidious than the rants of blatant homophobes like Rios is that they mask bigotry in terms of support – the old "some of my best friends are gay" humbug. Kurtz says he wants his gay friends and colleagues to have rights – just not this one. Or as the Alliance for Marriage delicately frames it, "Gays and lesbians have the right to live as they choose" – as long as

it's not in same-sex marriages.

I'm sick to death of these antigay invectives, and the ink is hardly dry on the Massachusetts ruling. But then, right-wingers would like nothing better than for gay people and their allies to become so tired and drained – emotionally and financially – by struggling for marriage rights that we just give up the fight.

Even if we're tired, though, we can't afford the luxury of quitting. Indeed, we have to try harder than ever to foil the Republican plans to dishonor our relationships for the party's political gain. The following is a tactic I've advocated before, but it bears repeating: Each of us needs to press our straight families and friends to take this issue personally. Leaders of the black civil rights movement knew that they would accomplish their goals much more quickly if white people took up the cause as their own.

We need, then, to ask the straight people in our lives to speak up for us publicly – through letters to news media and legislators, speeches to church groups, e-mails to friends,

conversations with co-workers. We want them to call attention to the fact that the right-wing drive against civil marriage rights, although cloaked in the guise of religion, is at its core politically driven and deeply hateful – and that it hurts people they care about.

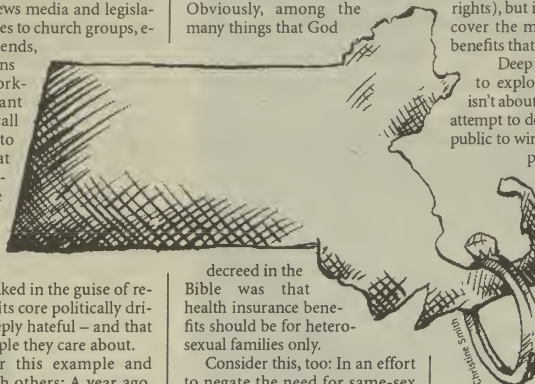
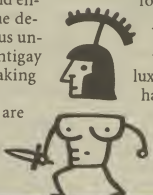
Consider this example and share it with others: A year ago, the city of Cleveland Heights began granting health benefits to domestic partners of city employees. This wasn't about marriage rights for all gay Ohioans, but about health benefits for a very small number of civil servants.

Immediately, antigay groups launched an all-out campaign to repeal those health benefits. Obviously, among the many things that God

sive (ours ran \$1,000 six years ago, and my partner and I didn't even need documents for parental rights), but it could never begin to cover the many protections and benefits that civil marriage brings.

Deep down, the right's effort to exploit the marriage issue isn't about religion; it's a political attempt to deceive and confuse the public to win an election at the expense of a particular group of citizens. Understanding that should make the issue very, very personal – not just for gay people, but for all Americans who have lesbians and gay men in their lives. ▼

Lesbian Notions



decreed in the Bible was that health insurance benefits should be for heterosexual families only.

Consider this, too: In an effort to negate the need for same-sex marriage, the Family Research Council spreads the lie that the legal and financial benefits of marriage "are already afforded [gay couples] via a will, power of attorney, or contract." Not only is this paperwork extremely expen-

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

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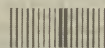
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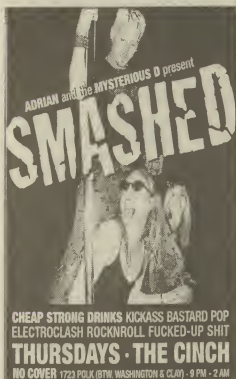
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**PACIFIC HORIZON
MEDICAL GROUP**

Sticks and stones

by Jane Warner

Fronting the Pendulum, 4146 18th Street, December 2, 12:53 a.m.: A huge brawl occurred outside the Pendulum bar which led to three people being arrested and four people being injured. According to witnesses, a group of young adults got into a physical confrontation after a man standing on the steps of the bar told one of them, "You're an ugly bitch."

The group allegedly challenged the man to a fight and the man summoned four of his friends who were inside the bar. The two groups began to brawl using pool sticks and beer bottles as weapons and the combat quickly spread onto 18th Street. Patrons from the Edge and Badlands bars tried to intervene. One of the victims of the fray, who had been kicked repeatedly, crawled into the Edge bar to take refuge as several other witnesses dialed 911 on their cell phones. Police responded with lights and sirens and shut down 18th Street between Castro and Collingwood as they retained control of the street. Twelve people were detained, three were arrested, and four were treated by paramedics. Police confiscated four knives, a pool stick, three shorter sticks with nails protruding from the top, and a broken umbrella. Two of the three arrested, ages 19 and 20, were taken to Mission Station and cited for battery and resisting arrest, while a third suspect, 32, was booked for aggravated assault.

Big words

Badlands, 4121 18th Street, November 30, 6 p.m.: After allegedly telling the bartender to "Fuck off," a man was asked to leave the premises. "This is my bar," the trespasser responded. "I don't

have to go anywhere." When the bartender threatened to call the police, the man started screaming, "Fuck-you, fuck-you, fuck-you!"

Officers soon arrived. After telling the man to leave, he approached one of the officers, coming within inches of his face, and screamed, "Fuck you, too." The officer grabbed one of the man's arms as another officer grabbed the other arm, and they both escorted the drunk outside. As they reached the sidewalk, the man resisted, trying to jerk both his arms away from the officers.

Because of the rain, the sidewalk was slick, and all three fell to the concrete. During the struggle, the suspect sustained a large bump and cut to his forehead. A sergeant was summoned to the scene along with an ambulance. As paramedics tried to assist the man, the suspect resisted, telling them to "Fuck off." Because of his injury, the man was strapped to a gurney against his will and transported to San Francisco General Hospital. Once there, he refused all medical care, signing a release. Still in custody for resisting arrest, however, the suspect was taken to Mission Station for booking. Because he was intoxicated, the booking officer refused custody, so sheriff's deputies took him to the county jail where a medical staff was on hand. During his booking at county jail, however, the suspect indicated he was suicidal, and was held for a psychological evaluation.

Coordinated effort

Fronting the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, November 29, 1:50 a.m.: While two women were standing on the sidewalk in front of the Women's Building, a man quickly approached them from behind and ripped the purse off the shoulder of one of the women.

The suspect — described as Hispanic, 20-30 years old, 5 feet 6 inches, wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans — fled on foot with the purse in hand, toward Linda Street. The victims gave chase, and the suspect tripped and fell to the sidewalk, spilling the purse contents. The suspect picked up the wallet and ran to a waiting green Pontiac Bonneville with a broken rear window. The suspect and the Pontiac's driver fled south on Valencia from 18th Street.

Fuel to the fire

Arco filling station, 376 Castro, November 24, 4 p.m.: The owner of the filling station received an anonymous tip that a slender white male with blond hair was spotted the night before crawling through the window of the gas station's garage. Recognizing the description as someone she banned from the premises, the owner thanked the caller, checked the garage, and discovered several tools missing from a chest and \$600 gone from a petty cash drawer. The owner called police, who responded to take a report. While there, they were surprised when the owner suddenly stated, "That's him," pointing to a blue Chevrolet driving into the station. Officers quickly surrounded the car and detained the suspect, placing him in the back of the squad car while they further investigated the burglary. While in the police car, however, the suspect caught the owner's eye and reportedly told her through the window, "You're dead, bitch." The 49-year-old suspect, who was released on the burglary charge pending investigation, was taken to Mission Station after all, for allegedly threatening the woman's life. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

Imler, others given probation for medical pot

by Liz Highleyman

A federal judge last month sentenced three former officers of the now-closed Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center to probation with no prison time, eliciting cheers from a courtroom packed with supporters.

LACRC president Scott Imler, vice president Jeffrey Farrington, and secretary/treasurer Jeff Yablan faced 30 months in federal prison. Instead, U.S. District Judge A. Howard Matz on November 24 imposed a probationary sentence under which the men will be required to perform 100-250 hours of community service and undergo random drug tests.

LACRC opened in 1996 in the wake of the passage of Proposition 215, California's Compassionate Use Act. On October 25, 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration raided the center, seizing patient records, computer equipment, more than 500 cannabis plants, and \$56,000 in the organization's bank account. At the time

of its closure following the raid, LACRC was serving some 960 patients, the majority of whom had HIV/AIDS or cancer.

Imler, Farrington, and Yablan were initially charged with drug trafficking. In March, the men accepted an agreement to plead guilty to a charge of "maintaining a place where [marijuana] was manufactured, distributed, or used." Imler said he accepted the plea bargain because testimony related to medical necessity had been barred from recent medical cannabis trials.

"While we'd all like to fancy ourselves as courageous, heroic, social justice crusaders and go to trial, no matter the outcome, the reality is that we're just regular guys caught up in some pretty extraordinary circumstances," Imler told the *Bay Area Reporter* in March. Imler is suffering from lung cancer and was scheduled for surgery this week.

One of the most highly regarded cannabis dispensaries in the state, LACRC attempted to strictly adhere to local and state med-

ical marijuana guidelines. The city of West Hollywood, where the center was located, helped finance LACRC's building. Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) wrote letters in support of Imler and the LACRC, and West Hollywood's mayor and city council asked the judge for leniency.

"It was never my intention or our intention to be scofflaws or outlaws," Imler told the judge before his sentencing.

Matz took the opportunity to decry the federal government's ongoing persecution of medical cannabis providers. "They didn't do it for money or political leverage," said Matz. "They committed a crime to avoid the harm of the greater suffering of patients."

"Judge Matz was exactly right in applying the 'lesser harm' doctrine," said Bruce Mirken of the Marijuana Policy Project. "He has laid out a template for judges in all such cases to follow, and one that cuts to the absolute heart of the

next page ►

Report

◀ page 1

2002. The number of HIV-positive men engaging in unprotected anal intercourse dropped 10 percent, from 50 percent to 40 percent.

The news of a plateauing HIV infection rate comes just days after health officials also announced a decline in syphilis infections among men who have sex with men this year in San Francisco. The drop in cases also bolsters the contention that gay men are once again practicing safe sex and are showing more concern about the health risks attributable to unsafe sexual practices.

Tuesday's report also helps to validate arguments made by both health officials and staff at the Stop AIDS Project that San Francisco's HIV prevention efforts are working. During 2002 the agency and the Office of AIDS came under intense scrutiny from officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who questioned if the work being done was scientifically sound and prevented the transmission of HIV.

"We don't have enough data to support what's going on, but we fundamentally believe that something is working," said Jimmy Loyce, the deputy director of health and AIDS programs.

As for the CDC investigations, Loyce said, "I think they enjoy coming to San Francisco and reviewing our programs and the work that we do here in San Francisco. Though they would never say that."

Health commissioners, who have stood by the department's prevention efforts, also echoed Loyce's contention that the city's HIV prevention methods are having an impact.

"This report is encouraging. We are the only city in America where the rates are going down, so we must be doing something right," said Commissioner Dr. Harrison Parker.

Since their prevention methods came under attack, city health officials have been asked by the



Dr. Mitch Katz

CDC to discuss their work and make presentations on it to their colleagues in other parts of the country, including New York, Atlanta, and Puerto Rico. Despite threats from conservative lawmakers who question San Francisco's approaches, Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz vowed that the city would continue to be a leader in fighting AIDS.

"We will stay on the cutting edge. We will continue to do things that are first in the nation," he said.

Long way to go

While the findings reported on Tuesday were positive signs, the city still has a long way to go in its battle to stop the spread of AIDS. Health officials estimate that 9,000 people in San Francisco are living with AIDS and an equal number are HIV-positive. In 2000, the city reported that 8,806 people were living with AIDS.

Out of the estimated 55,000 gay men living in the city, health officials predict 700 of those men will become HIV-positive this year.

"We see new infections among gay men in their mid-20s to mid-30s," said Schwarcz.

Instead of questioning why those men became infected, health officials want to know how the others remained negative.

"What are they doing to stay uninfected? That is a focus for our office," said Steven Tierney, the

city's director of HIV infection.

The city is also paying more attention to what role crystal and popper use among gay men is playing in spreading HIV. According to a survey done by the National Institutes of Health, it is estimated that 12.3 percent of the city's MSM use crystal. The national average is 4 percent.

"Crystal use is an epidemic in San Francisco. Use among our MSM is three times the national average," said Tierney. "Some studies in both Los Angeles and San Francisco show that nearly 100 percent of the men who are HIV-positive with a sexually transmitted disease report speed use."

As for poppers, studies done by the city's HIV research section show that men who use them have a 28 percent higher chance of contracting HIV.

"We think it is a very important risk factor we need to focus on," said Susan Buchbinder, head of the research section.

She also warned that men who have multiple partners they believe to be HIV-negative also have a higher chance of being HIV-positive.

"The greater number of HIV-negative partners a person has there is a 14 percent increase in risk per partner," she said. "If a person has lots of HIV-negative partners, some are likely to be positive and not know it."

And as debate still rages over the CDC's move next year to focus more prevention efforts on people who are HIV-positive, Katz said there is an upside if those people also receive treatment.

"If we can get more positive people on treatment then we will likely push down the rates of new infections. We have data that shows this is true," he said. ▼

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ADAP

◀ page 2

ADAP provides prescription drugs to fight HIV and its associated diseases to some 26,000 low-income Californians who can't otherwise afford them. According to San Francisco-based Project Inform, 46 percent of ADAP beneficiaries earn less than \$8,860 per year; 77 percent earn less than \$17,720 per year.

"Access to ADAP is the difference between life and death for many low-income, HIV-positive Californians," said Anne Donnelly, the agency's director of public policy. "Governor Schwarzenegger is seeking to balance the budget by cutting essential programs, contrary to his campaign promises. We urge the governor to reconsider this ill-advised course of action and instead affirm a commitment to low-income people who de-

pend on these life-saving health care programs."

If California were to cap enrollment to ADAP, it would join 16 other states that currently have ADAP waiting lists. According to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, as of November 1 there were 679 people across the country unable to access ADAP services.

Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) used Monday's observance of World AIDS Day to pressure the governor into backing away from implementing a cap to ADAP and challenged him to fully fund the program.

"If this proposal is implemented, more than 700 people would be on a California waiting list for HIV medications by next June, doubling the total number of people on ADAP waiting lists nationwide," said Koretz. "The cost of HIV medications in the United

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Medical pot

◀ previous page

issue."

Said Steph Sherer, executive director of Americans for Safe Access, "Judge Matz has shown that common sense can prevail against the federal government's mean-spirited attacks."

The LACRC verdict is the second this year in which a federal

judge has departed from sentencing guidelines in a high-profile medical cannabis case. In June, Judge Charles Breyer sentenced Ed Rosenthal, who had been deputized by the city of Oakland to grow medical marijuana for patients, to just one day in prison. In response, Representative Mark Souder (R-Indiana) is preparing to introduce the Drug Sentencing Reform Act, which would prohibit such downward departures. ▼

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Cheap Thrills in the Haight features queer soap, clever patches, chain necklaces, same-sex cake-toppers, animal print lunch boxes, and torso toothpick holders.

Homo holidays

◀ page 1

of books and toys (\$5-\$50), including a section of translated texts. Asian action figures, including Chinese representations, are also available in the Richmond District, at **Heroes Club**, 840 Clement Street, and in the Haight's new **Giant Robot** store at 622 Shrader.

Only J-town's Kinokuniya goes above and beyond the usual offerings, with bonsai, reflexology, and

feng shui kits (\$10-\$20); character-themed stationery sets (\$6-\$12); and hot magazines, including professional hairstylists' journals (\$5-\$15).

For those with a vintage aesthetic, clothing and accessories at many hip shops have been retrofitted to today's bodies to ensure a better look for those once-shunned browns and oranges. Head to **Villains**, 1672 Haight, for modernized trucker's caps in skull-print, flannel, and auto-shop designs (\$20); graphic tees with

(\$20-\$30). Get all of the above in the Haight at **Villains** or **Revival of the Fittest**, 1701 Haight, or **DalJeets**, 1744 Haight, which also offers custom belt buckles at \$4 per letter.

Customization is also a big theme this year, and no more so than in the Mission, where **Retro-Fit**, 910 Valencia (at 20th), will print T-shirts and other items with vintage logos such as "Hustler," "Atari," and "Disco" (\$20). The bikers and Dickies-clad friends in your life will also love the hard-core iron-on apparel (\$5-\$25) at **Lo-Fi Customs** at 1776 Mission, (at 14th), including tattoo-inspired cooking aprons for those edgy gourmets. Lo-Fi also features original rock art posters for sale, and a new show, "Girls, Guns, Gas, and Glitter," by

page <None> ▶



One of the graphic tees with outrageous slogans at Villains in the Haight.

outrageous slogans (\$20-\$25); and western button-downs (\$40).

For the ladies, tomboys, and queens in your life, boy briefs for girls (about \$10-\$12) are all the rage. Cut in panty-style, their openings mimic the best man-pockets on the market, and many stores carry pairs with iron-on slogans and graphics. Other hot accessories for everyone include thick leather cuff watches (\$50-\$75) and heavy silver belt buckles



A painting by Kyle Ranson

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Tiara-topped velvet royal bears and tiara-topped blue glass ornaments at Nancy Boy in the Castro.

Castro shopping

◀ page 1

San Francisco design company Lunares. After selling out the pint size product within a week last year, the store has plenty on hand this year and is also selling the company's cheese tray shaped like an artist's palette (\$68).

Cone-shaped and round candles in cranberry, nutmeg, and evergreen shades are also hot sellers, with prices ranging from \$16 to \$20 depending on size. Also on sale are beautifully decorated Chinese vases packaged in silk boxes. Small vases cost \$42 and the larger ones are priced at \$98. For the hostess or host on one's list the store has a collection of red and orange wood dishes, the square shaped plates cost \$28 or \$38 depending on size, with round plates costing \$68.

Poinsettias of various sizes and colors are set to arrive this week at **Farmer's Boy** at 600 Castro Street. Prices range from \$15 for the smaller plants to as much as \$45 for the tallest. Amaryllis are also on sale, with miniature plants costing \$16, growing kits priced at \$10 or \$20 for the largest size.

In addition to plants, the store also carries an assortment of Sun-body scrubs. The sugar scrubs are handmade by the Sebastopol company and come in hot chocolate or mint-chip (\$18.50). There is also a bee euphoria face mask (\$19.95) made from bee pollen or a vegetable lift face mask (\$24.95) fashioned from vegetables such as broccoli, spinach, kale, parsley, cauliflower and sea kelp.

Bare Essentials at 421 Castro Street also carries a wide range of unusual body products like Swedish Christmas soaps (\$13.99). The set of two soaps

come emblazoned with Christmas trees on them and smell of pine, cinnamon, oranges, and cloves. Or there is Dead Sea mud (\$5.99) for the face and body. The shop also carries soy wax candles (\$17) in such scents as Mandarin bamboo, seneca, tomato leaf, and mist.

Brand X Antiques at 570 Castro Street is renowned for its collection of estate jewelry, ranging in price from \$5 to as much as \$1,000 per piece. The shop is crammed to the ceiling with unique items ranging from a vintage 1963 pocket edition of *The Night Before Christmas* illustrated by Roy McKie (\$30) to framed erotic artwork. Photographed copies of artist Etienne's 1959 "Ambush at Peckerwood Pass" run \$225. The painting depicts James Dean and Elvis Presley as naked cavalry men being attacked by well-endowed Indians, one of whom resembles Victor Mature.

For Christmas cards with a gay sensibility, check out the selection at **Does Your Mother Know** at 4079 18th Street. A 10-card set (\$14.95) with a cartoon hunky Santa watched by a gorgeous guy clad in pajamas with a rear end flap dropped down reads "May your stocking be stuffed by Santa with care." Seasonal cards with

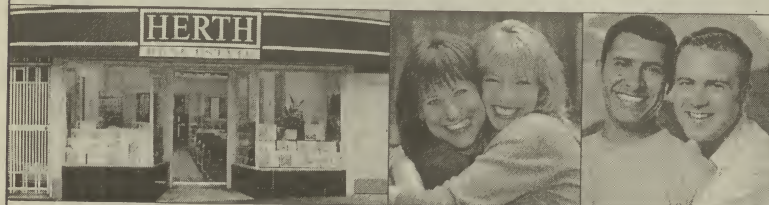
scenes from the Showtime program *Queer as Folk* also cost \$14.95.

[After the holidays, the shop is moving up the street to 4141 18th Street. The store hopes to complete its move by January and will expand its selection.]

A wide array of gifts for the home can be found at the recently opened addition to **Cliff's Variety** at 479 Castro Street. The store has stocked a collection of Moss tableware with salad plates (\$6), dinner plates (\$8), bowls (\$20), and an oval platter (\$25).

Fun home items include the sushi timer (\$18) which comes shaped as one of four pieces of sushi: ebi san, ikura san, uni san, or saba san. For the bathroom there is an aquatic collection that includes the flossy fish dental floss dispenser (\$10), the bristly fish hand and nail brush (\$8), and fishy hooks (\$8 for a set of two) to hold razor blades or towels. Inside the main store is a wide array of Christmas decorations, including the "How to build a snowman" appetizer dish (\$15). Apart from holding chips and dip during holiday parties, the snowman shaped platter comes with instructions on how to adorn a snowman by using vegetables. ▼

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Cone-shaped and round candles in cranberry, nutmeg, and evergreen shades are featured at home in the Castro.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Stores ready for grand opening weekend

by Matthew S. Bajko

Two new Castro businesses will welcome patrons this weekend as they celebrate their grand openings and become part of the business district.

Friday night, December 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. the new upscale laundry service Sit and Spin will celebrate its opening with a ribbon cutting and a performance by

the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Also on hand to welcome the business will be District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and Donna Sachet.

Saturday morning at 10 a.m. the shoe store De La Sole will also herald its opening in the Castro. Using an oversized shoe lace, Dufty will officiate the "unlacing" of the new store.

Located at 4023 18th Street be-

tween Noe and Hartford streets, Sit and Spin features inlaid mosaic tile flooring, custom granite counters and track lighting, a big screen TV, and video games. Owner Sam Sirhed and manager Jack Mogannam hope the fancy layout will augment the bland task of getting one's laundry cleaned.

Customers can also enjoy a full service, gourmet coffee shop and sidewalk cafe featuring sandwiches, salads, bakery items, and a soup du jour. The cleaners will offer wash and fold or dry cleaning services, while those who prefer to do it themselves will find 54 "no coin, easy card," state-of-the-art washers and dryers. Other services include in/out fax service and mailbox rental.

"Once I get my crew on board and operations running smoothly, we hope to be a partner in the community supporting local charities and joining the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro association," said Mogannam.

Hours of operation will be from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Call (415) 522-0201 for

more information.

Offering "Fashion for Your Sole," De La Sole Footwear will be the first full service shoe store for men and women in the Castro shopping district. Located at 4126 18th Street, just off of Castro Street, the store will carry footwear by Camper, Diverse, Medium, Palladium, ProKeds, Kenneth Cole, Steve Madden, and Tsubo.

Owned and operated by busi-

ness and life partners, Joe Costa and Barry Schmell, the store's offering will be a wide selection of fashion shoes for men and women ranging from sporty to casual trendy to dress shoes from a variety of brands with an emphasis on European flare.

The store will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. For more information call (415) 255-4130. ▼

Homo holidays

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Rene Garcia Jr., opens on December 11.

Art collectors should also consider the works of some emerging local talents.

Photographer **Michelle Blomstedt** (www.michelleblomstedt.com), whose work has appeared at several local venues including City Art Gallery, has a large portfolio of queer, biker, and bar images in her collection of Polaroid transfers. Blomstedt's medium — which combines the elements of painting, print making, and photography — produces one-of-a-kind antiqued depictions of modern icons, from a "Stop Queer Bashing" street sign to a fancy lace-up corset to a store's wig display to the exteriors of Zeitgeist, the now-defunct Sacrifice, and the Doggy Diner head. Prints go for \$25 unframed.

Painter **Kyle Ranson** (www.kyleranson.com), as seen in San Francisco's Clarion Alley, and in shows in London and New York, captivates the eye with his house-paint-on-wood, disturbingly breathtaking religious-limbless-erotic images. Ranson makes disfigurement seductive and violent sex spiritual through purposeful strokes and mythological influences in pieces like "Fuck Me Jesus" "Love Murder Mountain" and "So This is California." The needle exchange outreach worker and community activist sells his smaller work for \$40-\$100, and larger pieces can go for up to \$1,000.

And if you were lucky enough to catch the films of local writer/artists Mark Ewert, David Cutler, and Kelley Lamsens over the past year, then you're familiar with "Piki and Poko," the anime-inspired, lesbian-leaning teenage heroes of Starland whose fellow characters include a Latino/a transgender mentor and a Martha Stewart-style villain. Get your "Genders Come, Genders Go" T-shirt (\$10) at www.pikiand-poko.com.

Finally, everybody loves having someone else pay for the services they've been meaning to indulge in, which is where gift certificates and prepaid memberships come in handy.

The lesbian-owned **Reigning Dogs and Cats** at 1766 Mission (at 14th) offers bathing (\$35), grooming (\$50), day care (\$25), and boarding (\$35), all with supervised puppy playtime and a grassy backyard in which Rex can romp. Unique to this facility is its predominantly "free roaming" approach, in which socialized dogs mingle uncaged at all times except for meals and sleeping. Call (415) 431-DOGS for more information.

And the **GLBT Historical Society** houses a rare collection of papers, tapes, and artifacts from the activists, politicians, and artists who shaped the movement

and continue to influence the discourse. Membership benefits include advance notice of upcoming exhibits, programs, and other events, including updates on the creation of a national museum. Membership is available at a variety of levels — from a \$15 gift membership with regular renewals to a \$50 standard membership to a \$100 membership that includes two free tickets to Theatre Rhinoceros or the New Conservatory Theatre. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org. ▼

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Depression is a medical condition that may cause feelings of sadness, worthlessness and helplessness, as well as loss of interest or pleasure in activities which were formerly enjoyable. This disorder is often treatable, but unfortunately many of the medications that are used to treat depression can cause sexual dysfunction as well as other side effects. As part of the search for better medications, Dr. Robert Dolgoff and colleagues at Berkeley Therapy Institute are conducting a study of an investigational drug, a marketed product, and placebo in patients suffering from moderate to severe depression. You may qualify for this study if you meet the following criteria:

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Robert Dolgoff MD (510) 841-8484 x104 dolgoff@earthlink.net
Michael Leaver RN CNS (510) 841-8484 x141 miki7484@hotmail.com

Give a little, gain a lot

Local nonprofits need gifts, too

by Zak Szymanski

There's the giving that brightens the holiday for loved ones, and then there's the giving that has the power to change lives.

For those looking to do a little more this season, many of the Bay Area's vital nonprofit organizations are hungry for your time, service, energy, extra cash, unused gifts, or gently used items.

A simple donation that won't break the bank may mean all the difference to those in need.

Dolores Street Community Services has issued a holiday wish list so that the agency may better serve its clients. DSCS runs the Richard M. Cohen House, a state-licensed full-service environment for people with AIDS, as well as a shelter program for Latino men, and a community center with needle exchange and medical programs. DSCS is in particular need of the following:

- Supplies for English as a second-language class, including lined paper, grammar books, three-ring binders, videos, computer software, books or audio books in Spanish, and English/Spanish movies.

- New and unused bedding and hygiene products, including twin-sized sheets and blankets, towels, deodorant, disposable razors, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair products, after-shave,

cologne, and lotion.

- Food supplies including nutritional supplements such as Ensure or Boost, canned and non-perishables, treats and energy bars, and Latino foods.

- Dining supplies such as paper plates and plastic ware, plastic cups, and paper napkins.

- Household basics such as first aid supplies and cleaning supplies.

- Activity items, from Muni and BART tickets, to theatrical, sporting, and special event tickets, to arts and crafts supplies.

- Equipment, including a dishwasher, laptop, overhead projector equipped for Power Point presentations, patio furniture, bunk beds, a VCR/DVD player, walkie-talkies, a desk lamp, and a space heater.

DSCS has also announced a call for new board members. The leading provider of emergency services to the Latino homeless and major provider of and advocate of AIDS housing is seeking nominees, particularly qualified candidates of color and/or people with HIV/AIDS who have experience with AIDS housing programs or homelessness.

Board members are expected to attend meetings, serve on at least one committee, volunteer time, advocate for services, set agency policy, supervise and evaluate the executive director, authorize expenditures, approve contracts, develop goals, ensure compliance with all laws, support fundraising efforts, and generate funds to the organization with a goal of \$2,000 per year.

For more information on DSCS donations or board nominations, call (415) 282-6209.

Carols Across America, an album which benefits the **AIDS and Breast Cancer Emergency Funds** and **Positive Resource Center**, is down to its last few hundred copies and is soon to be a collector's item. The compilation CD features a variety of performers, including Paul Parker, Ernest Kohl, the late Jo-Carol, Donna Sachet, and Linda Imperial. Its debut last year raised more than \$10,000; it is still available at www.cdba-by.com/cd/caa for \$9.99.

The Pediatric AIDS Program at Children's Hospital Oakland is looking for gift donations for its annual holiday party. Toy drives often don't generate gifts for babies or teens, which make up many of the program's

clientele. Gift suggestions can be provided. E-mail pmacy@mail.cho.org.

Pets Are Wonderful Support is hosting its annual "Santa PAWS" event from noon until 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 6 at Noe Valley Pet Co., 1451 Church Street (at Cesar Chavez), and again on Sunday, December 7, at Ghirardelli Square. Bring your dogs for a photo with Santa and help raise money so that people with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses can keep their animal companions.

PAWS also needs new volunteers to walk dogs, feed pets, and operate the pet food bank; the next orientation is December 10, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the PAWS office, 1121 Mission Street (at 7th Street). And on December 13 and 14 the organization needs volunteers to help deliver stockings to clients.

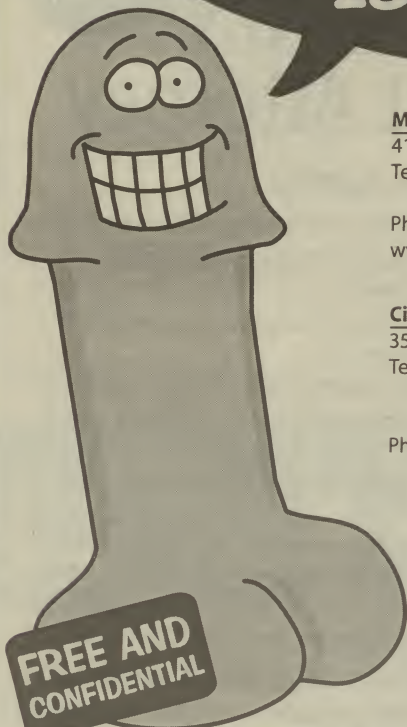
For more information on PAWS events, visit www.pawssf.org or call (415) 241-1460.

Continuum, the health and human services agency for underserved people with HIV/AIDS, needs a DVD player, gardening supplies, a conference room table and chairs, and toiletries. Call (415) 437-2900, ext. 108, to donate items.

Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center needs a fax machine that works. In order to better serve its clients, TARC also needs donations of blankets, umbrellas, towels, socks, sweatshirts, pants, and money. Call (415) 923-6986 to arrange a donation.

Don't see your favorite nonprofit mentioned? Most likely it is a beneficiary of **Community Thrift**, 623 Valencia Street (at 17th). This holiday season, clear out those closets and give under-used items a new home. Donations of furniture, clothes, and household items are accepted at Community Thrift from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (do not leave items on the curb after hours). Donors can designate which charity will benefit from the sale of their items, from advocacy projects like Breast Cancer Action and SF Women Against Rape to the LGBT workshop center the Harvey Milk Institute to the LGBT grant-making organization the Horizons Foundation. The end of the year is approaching, which means those itemizing their taxes have just a few weeks left to get credit for their donations. For more information, call (415) 861-4910. ▼

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Lesbian health hearing



Following up on his November 20 hearing on lesbian health concerns, Supervisors Bevan Dufty, right, and Fiona Ma, left, met with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Los Angeles), second from right, of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and a member of the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Also pictured are Dr. Patricia Robertson, second from left, and Suzanne Dibble, R.N., center, of San Francisco's Lesbian Health Research Center. LHRC is part of the School of Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco. During the meeting, Roybal-Allard pledged to work to secure funding for lesbian and gay health research.



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— Susan Leal, SF City Treasurer

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Paid for by Newsom for Mayor. FPPC ID# 1250905

Gay entrepreneur reinvents hospitality

by Eric Ganther

Who: Chip Conley
What: Chairman and CEO of Joie de Vivre Hospitality
Where: San Francisco
Contact: jdvhospitality.com.

Textured beige walls, solid hunter green curtains, busy barf-proof carpeting, and a "nature" setting screwed to the wall—repeat this scene 200 to 500 times and you have the typical corporate hotel. Even in San Francisco, hotels are either embarrassingly bland or embarrassingly pretentious. But don't despair. In the hotel business as in many others, if megacorp can't get it right, entrepreneurial queers can. We know style, charm, and hospitality. This week I interview Chip Conley, gay man, hotel owner, and psychic relation to Sophia Loren.

How did you become a hotel owner?

Seventeen years ago, on my 26th birthday, I was working in commercial real estate and had to make a decision: 1) the hotel business (I had earned an MBA from Stanford), 2) massage therapy (I had trained in that too), or 3) stagecraft (I had just written a screenplay.) I decided to pursue the hotel business because it would allow me to be creative. I found an old, broken-down, pay-by-the-hour motel in the Tenderloin, which I renamed the Phoenix. They wanted a million dollars, not much for a hotel on a whole acre of land. So I raised the money and bought my first hotel.

So your company, Joie de Vivre Hospitality, owns about 25 hotels?

We manage 25 hotels, we own half and we manage the other half for other owners who like our business model. In addition to the Phoenix, which has lots of event parties, readers might also know the Archbishop's Mansion on Alamo Square. Then there is the arts and literary themed Hotel Rex; the subtle and stylish Hotel Adagio with its great restaurant, Cortez; the playful, colorful California bungalow style Hotel Del Sol. And then we also own the Kabuki Springs and Spa, the Millennium Restaurant, the Red Room Bar and a few others.

What makes you different from the big hotel chains that domi-

nate the industry?

Historically, people preferred chains (Holiday Inn, Marriott, etc.) for predictability. Now people want hotels with a little personality. Each of our hotels has its own personality based on a magazine and five descriptive words. For example, the Hotel Rex is designed around *New Yorker* magazine and the words: sophisticated, literate, clever, artistic, and worldly. Coincidentally, those words describe the characteristics of the Rex's biggest fans.

Which hotel are you?

Depends on the day! At heart, I'm the Hotel Vitale, the one we're building on the Embarcadero across from the Ferry Building and Boulevard Restaurant. We want it to become the Sophia Loren of San Francisco hotels—does that make me the Sophia Loren of San Francisco? It's for people who've outgrown the more pretentious, narcissistic, hip hotels like W and the Ian Schrager hotels.

What's your role in your business?

I'm part cheerleader and part corporate strategist. With a thousand employees, I'm also sort of the papa and the mama of the business. Sometimes I'm the disciplinarian setting boundaries, and sometimes I'm the nurturer and the intuitive. But my title is CEO and chairman.

To what do you attribute your success?

I wrote a book in 2000 about this, *The Rebel Rules: Daring to be Yourself in Business*. I try to be authentic in both my personal life and my business life. This helps me succeed because people trust me and because I'm not losing energy trying to hide something. I'm fortunate that I found a career path that accentuates my greatest talents.

What do you like about being a CEO of a small corporation?

When there's something new going on in town I get invited. That's nice. It's an honor to be interviewed by you and to be a role model. It's been an honor teaching and speaking at the Renaissance Center for Entrepreneurship. More abstractly, there is freedom in making strategy and deciding, for example, to go into

the spa business, like we did when we bought Kabuki. And I'm very proud of the job we've done creating a sense of home for our co-workers at Joie de Vivre.

What's hard about being a CEO?

Well, there's responsibility that comes with the perks. Sometimes I feel handcuffed to the business. At some point my boyfriend, Donald, might want to move to Barcelona or somewhere like that. And I can't move the hotels to

Barcelona any time soon. I have to be very committed to this city and to this business.

Henry David Thoreau says it nicely: the cost of something is measured by how much life you have to give for it.

And entrepreneurs give a lot of their life to what they do, and I don't think a lot of people recognize that.

How's business?

In the last three years, San Francisco has seen the largest drop in hotel revenue of any hotel market in the history of the United States. And we operate 25 hotels around the Bay Area, more than any other company in Northern California. But without geographic diversification, we're beholden



Chip Conley, chairman and CEO of Joie de Vivre Hospitality

experiencing success. For me that means not being gated off in a world with people who are just like me. I love the eclecticism of San Francisco and I'd much rather hang out at Café Flore with a bunch of artists than go to a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

What do you recommend to people with a good business idea but little capital?

The myth is that if you write a fabulous business plan, you'll be able to raise enough capital. That's

When you're involved in the community and you have success, people cheer you on.

to the local economy. We have had to do some layoffs but I've done whatever I could do to keep a semblance of fairness in the company.

What is "karma capitalism"?

It's the belief that in the long-run, businesses that do good for the community are rewarded. (In the short run they might not be; that's why I won't take JDV Hospitality public, they judge you on your quarterly earnings.) And we've been around 17 years. We're major donors or supporters of the SF LGBT Film Festival, Project Open Hand, and Glide Memorial Church, where I'm on the board. All of that pays off karmically. When you're involved in the community and you have success, people cheer you on.

Are CEOs worth what they're paid?

I haven't paid myself in two and a half years! Am I worth the nothing I'm paying myself now? No! But was I worth what I was being paid in the boom? Probably not. Such is the life of an entrepreneur. And I think it's really a crime that in the last three years, during all of these layoffs, non-entrepreneurial CEOs continue making more and more money. This doesn't make sense. This is not karmic capitalism.

After World War II, CEOs made 40 times what the average employee made. Now they make 200-plus times what the average employee makes. Okay, if that's the way we're going to play the game, then let's tax the wealthy of society more heavily.

What's your definition of success?

Joie de vivre. The joy of life. When I'm experiencing this, I'm

only true in certain businesses where venture capitalists are looking for an idea and a management team. But in most businesses, it's a matter of getting people who know you to invest in your idea. The business plan is very secondary to your investors sense of your ability to create success.

If you can go work in a comparable business for a while, that absolutely helps. If you can go work for your biggest potential competitor, learn how their operation works, and then go compete with them, that's even better.

What do you recommend to people with a good business idea and enough capital?

Think carefully about the kind of corporate culture you're creating. At Joie de Vivre, we have a philosophy that if we create a unique corporate culture, we can create happy employees, and this leads to loyal customers, which leads to a profitable and sustainable business that can reinvest in the corporate culture, etc.

In your view, do gay guys and straight guys experience the business world differently?

Yes. Gay men humanize the business world. Once you've gone through the process of coming out, it forces you to be more authentic with others, and to have an empathy that is sadly lacking in the executive levels of the business world. Gay business leaders are more likely to have creativity, empathy, and a good intuitive sense. We're also more willing to take risks and appreciate diversity. Straight guys can have these qualities too, but in the business world, they end up accentuating their harder, competitive, type-A instincts, which aren't always effective.

I started out in commercial real estate and investment banking, and in both places my "gay" talents—empathy, intuition, creativity, etc. weren't as useful as they are in the hospitality industry. There has to be a fit. If you're spending time trying to make yourself fit someplace you don't belong, then you're not spending time creating a successful product.

Is your family supportive of both your business and your gay life?

My parents had a challenge when I first came out. My Dad's biggest concern was that I wouldn't be ambitious anymore. And obviously that has not been the case. Over time, they've come to understand that my talents aren't necessarily the ones they trained me for. For example, they thought I was crazy when I bought the Phoenix in the Tenderloin. They didn't understand. They thought I should create a family motor lodge ... in the Tenderloin!

Who are your role models?

One is Bayard Rustin, an African American and gay civil rights pioneer who died in the late 1980s. I admire him for his huge impact on Martin Luther King in regards to non-violence. I admire his ability to organize and cheerlead the famous 1963 March on Washington. I also appreciate that even late in life, he was engaged in creating harmony between peoples around the globe. And he was gay, beginning in the 1930s, when it was unheard of. He had to hide it sometimes but he wasn't ashamed of being gay. Now that's a role model for our community.

You're a baby in the realm of CEOs, now what? Politics?

Ha! I'm fascinated with politics. But I don't know any career politician who's in balance. Maybe I could be a role model for a different kind of politician. ... I'd like to teach more. I'd like to write another book. I have a foster son, Damien, who's 27 and has two kids. Once a month, Donald and I take the kids for a weekend. I love playing a role in their lives.

We have an opportunity to grow Joie de Vivre much larger than it is. I don't have any aspirations to make it a national or international firm, but I guess it could happen. I keep comparing the Thoreau quote to my company and how much life it takes to sustain such a project. I do have a dream of creating the ultimate transformation—spa-healing center in San Francisco—a kind of urban Esalen.

How do people find out more about your hotels, either as holiday guests or potential employees?

Go to our Web site, jdvhospitality.com, and you can meet Yvette, our online concierge, who will direct you to the hotel that best suits your personality. There is also a section on employment.

Thanks for your time, Chip. Good luck with your business and especially the opening of the Hotel Vitale. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.

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Festive attire requested. RSVP not required.

Please call the P-Force Info Line at 415.865.0790 x306 for more info, or visit www.stopaids.org.

FMA introduced in the Senate

by Bob Roehr

The other shoe dropped on the Federal Marriage Amendment when five Republican senators introduced it in that body on Tuesday, November 25. The antigay marriage constitutional amendment was first introduced in the House some 18 months ago and now has 108 cosponsors.

The lead sponsors in the Senate are Wayne Allard (Colorado), Sam Brownback (Kansas), Jim Bunning (Kentucky), James Inhofe (Oklahoma), and Jeff Sessions (Alabama).

Unlike their House colleagues, at this point the senators have not enlisted any Democratic sponsors, or for that matter, any Republicans who are not extremely con-

servative. This suggests tough going to reach the two-thirds majority necessary to pass a constitutional amendment.

Allard called his proposed amendment "a starting point for a more comprehensive discussion" and not necessarily the final format that an amendment might take.

"The Constitution is a masterpiece of liberty and freedom. Corrupting this precious document to score cheap political points is, frankly, obscene," said Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "True conservatives would never alter our Constitution for political purposes."

Log Cabin has gone on record as saying that it could not endorse or support a politician who backs the FMA.



GOP Senator Wayne Allard

Gay conservative Andrew Sullivan has pointed out that the current wording of the FMA, should it pass, raises a very real legal question of whether churches that perform same-sex marriages would be violating the Constitution. The issue of separation of church and state is not an insignificant matter.

"This is a misuse of the Constitution — a document that since the Bill of Rights, has been amended sparingly and only to expand individual rights and protections," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

"This amendment goes much further than denying the right to marry, it would also deny tax-paying Americans things as fundamental as Social Security survivor benefits and the right to visit a loved one in the hospital," she added.

Many legal scholars agree with Birch that the FMA would prohibit civil unions and other recognition of same-sex unions that did not carry the title of marriage. Mitch Daniels, head of the Alliance for Marriage and the chief

proponent of the FMA, says that it would not.

But other social conservatives want to make sure that it does. They are toying with language that would effectively ban all such recognition. It is a source of some turmoil among those groups on the far right.

"This amendment has very little to do with marriage as such; and everything to do with homosexuality," said Sullivan, writing in the *New Republic* online. "If the social right wanted to shore up marriage, they could propose an amendment tightening up divorce

active commentators who are opposed to the FMA. Some, notably David Brooks and William Safire, have even acknowledged positive aspects to extending civil marriage to same-sex couples.

Massachusetts

Meanwhile in Massachusetts, former Republican Governor William Weld told the *Boston Globe* that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision "Is a thunderbolt, but a thunderbolt correctly heard. ... It reminds me of some of the early civil rights cases, when the Warren Court all

"Corrupting [the Constitution] to score cheap political points is, frankly, obscene."

— Patrick Guerriero, Log Cabin Republicans

laws ... but they haven't.

"The amendment is simply — and baldly — an attempt to ostracize a minority of Americans for good. It is an attempt to write them out of their own country."

"Amending the Constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman would be unwise for two reasons," George F. Will wrote in his syndicated column published in the *Washington Post* on November 30.

"Constitutionalizing social policy is generally a misuse of fundamental law," Will wrote. "And it would be especially imprudent to end state responsibility for marriage law at a moment when we require evidence of the sort that can be generated by allowing the states to be laboratories of social policy."

He joins a growing list of the nation's most prominent conserv-

but said, somebody has to do this."

The four Catholic bishops of Massachusetts disagree. In a letter read from the pulpit on November 30, they called the court's decision "a national tragedy" that will only "erode even further the institution of marriage." They urged members of the Legislature to delay implementation of the ruling.

One factor that may limit or at least delay a broader national impact of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts is that the current law precludes non-residents from marrying if that union would not be recognized in their home state.

But the whole question of who is a "resident" is murky and not defined by law for purposes of marriage. Traditionally town clerks have simply accepted the word of those applying for the license. ▼

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Sobering statistics for World AIDS Day 2003

by Bob Roehr

About 3 million people will die from AIDS this year and 5 million more will become infected with HIV worldwide, UNAIDS said in its annual report on the plague.

The epidemic continues unabated in large sections of sub-Saharan Africa and is poised for an explosive outbreak in parts of Asia and the former Soviet Union. Even in the United States and Western Europe where therapy is readily available, new infections are on the rise.

In the United States, the number of people diagnosed with HIV infection began to fall dramatically with the introduction of protease inhibitors in 1996. That trend leveled off in 1999 and over the ensuing three years the number of new HIV diagnoses have increased by 5.1 percent, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in releasing data from 2002, in the November 28 issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

New diagnoses surged 17 percent among gay and bisexual men and African Americans accounted for 55 percent of all new cases. Close to a million Americans are

believed to carry the virus and perhaps a third don't know it. Estimates are that 40,000 new infections occur each year.

The CDC analysis is based upon data reported by 29 states. However, it does not include data from many major centers of infection — including New York, California, and Texas — and it totals significantly less than half of the national HIV caseload. It also represents infections that were newly diagnosed but likely were transmitted several months or perhaps even more than a decade earlier.

"Stigma and discrimination — themes for this year's World AIDS Day — help perpetuate the HIV epidemic around the world and here in this country," said Harold Jaffe, director of CDC's HIV prevention programs. "These obstacles deter people from getting tested and prevent HIV-infected people from receiving treatment. They also increase the already heavy burden of HIV in communities of color."

In the United Kingdom, the Health Protection Agency announced that newly diagnosed cases of HIV increased about 20 percent in 2002, to 6,400 persons. About 70 percent of those infections were acquired elsewhere and

the person then immigrated to England.

Among gay and bisexual men, gonorrhea nearly doubled to 3,363 cases and syphilis jumped from 52 to 607 cases. The government has committed additional resources to prevention and testing activities that are targeted to groups at high risk for HIV and STDs.

In Russia, the number of people infected with HIV has increased ten-fold in just the last three years, and may be as high as 1.5 million people.

One of the brightest spots continues to be Uganda where committed political leadership has made remarkable progress at stemming new infections at the epicenter of the epidemic. For the 12th consecutive year, the HIV prevalence rate was lower than the preceding year.

Another encouraging sign is that the government of South Africa recently reversed its longstanding resistance to providing antiretroviral therapy for people with advanced HIV disease. The use of generic drugs and further reductions in the cost of drugs helped, but it will be an enormous task to implement treatment on a wide scale. ▼

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Sat, Dec 6, 4pm @ the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St @ Octavia St

STOP
AIDS
PROJECT

Continental drift

by Jim Provenzano

Two Federation of Gay Games delegates who are also board members of International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics are among the first to specifically align their sports groups with the federation.

Philip Hayman of West Hollywood's WH20, and Priscilla Kawakami of Salt Lake City, released a statement to IGLA members, urging "both teams and individuals to support the Gay Games."

"In the last few weeks, Montreal 2006 has engaged in a negative campaign against the FGG in an attempt to sidestep the negotiation process," they said. "Without exception, M2006 press releases have been filled with exaggerations, misrepresentations, and inaccuracies. Despite the failure of negotiations, the FGG and the Gay Games will continue."

Hayman is a former coach and current swimmer with WH20, and one of the founding members of IGLA. Kawakami is also on the federation's Outreach Committee.

But IGLA members have voiced a variety of opinions on a new message board at the swim group's site, www.igla.org.

Ralph Doore of San Francisco Tsunami expressed dismay of "a failure to communicate."

He wrote, "The financial disasters of the past GG's have been due to the cultural festival portion of the event - after all, when was the last time the GALA choruses hosted a hockey game? The Gay Games were supposed to be an athletic event."

IGLA's annual swim meet has been timed to take place at Gay Games swimming events every four years. The potential disruption of scheduling may affect one of the largest sports groups, which

includes nearly 1,000 swimmers, water polo players, and divers.

The fallout has led to a growing international debate. Some questioned whether Montreal's event would be formally sanctioned.

Said Lucille Thirby of London's Out to Swim, "I would prefer that IGLA state they encourage teams to participate [in both events]. Maybe by 2006 some wounds will have healed."

Christian Bordenau of Paris Aquatique called the Chicago meeting, "a disaster," and cited potential conflicts for athletes visiting North America to possibly be forced to take sides, and consider which event to attend in 2006.

"Some will want to go to Montreal, others to the 'real' Gay Games. The consequences will be enormous and irreversible for every one."

Euro seer

Meanwhile, an International Conference on the Rights of Gays and Lesbians press statement erroneously claimed that the "2006 Gay Games [will] Be Held As Planned In Montreal."

Louise Roy, chief executive officer of Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006, and Mark Tewksbury, co-president, were in Brussels on December 3 to meet the European press and provide an update on the situation of Montreal's "gay games."

While courting European athlete/tourists, the two may be gaining a stronghold on the opinions of non-American athletes when they attend the conference.

Vocal locals

These and other issues will be discussed at what should be a well-attended meeting of local GLBT athletes and sports groups at the Team San Francisco general membership meeting, Saturday, December 6, at 3 p.m. With the Eureka Valley Recreation Center closed for renovations, the Team SF meeting will be at the community room above the Bank of America, at the corner of 18th and Castro.

Federation delegates who attended the Chicago meeting will be present. Annual board elections will also be held. For more information, contact info@teamsf.org.

A tent shun

Following local and national

media attention to his being fired by Cirque du Soleil, HIV-positive gymnast Matthew Cusick may get some help from San Francisco's Human Rights Commission over his federal discrimination complaint, filed by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The company, whose show *Alegria* is currently playing near Pac Bell Park, "risks fines, termination of its current contract or [could] be barred from a city contract for up to three years," Larry Brinkin, a senior contract compliance officer at the Human Rights Commission, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The Port of San Francisco leased its property to Cirque, so it must abide by city codes that prohibit job discrimination based on HIV status.

Cusick and 50 supporters protested outside Pac Bell Park on November 20. Protests also took place in Los Angeles, and others are planned in Atlanta and Orange County.

In an earlier interview with the daily newspaper, Cirque's spokeswoman Renee-Claude Menard said that the company's casting department was not aware of his HIV status and thus assigned him to a risky role.

Yet Cusick and his lawyers have said in several interviews that Cirque's medical advisers were well aware of Cusick's HIV status, and abruptly fired him only days before he was set to fly to Las Vegas to replace a performer in the company's production of *Mystere*.

End zone

In other HIV-related sports news, former NFL football player Roy Simmons, who came out in 1992 on an episode of *The Phil Donahue Show*, had a lengthy interview in the November 30 *New York Times*.

Simmons shared a painful several years of his life battling suicidal thoughts, drug addiction, family strife, and poverty following his retirement and subsequent reconversion.

The former Washington Redskins player in the 1984 Super Bowl. Now 47, he works with a group of mentally ill recovering drug addicts in a Long Island halfway house.

"I'm sure there are those out there who are suffering, and if I help just one person, it's worth it," Simmons said. "You have to free yourself, and let it go. The secrecy and all that stuff brings on sickness."

Pommel horsehug

In other less serious gymnast news, former Nittany Lions men's gymnast Matt Abboud did not violate NCAA amateur regulations by posing in the November issue of *Playgirl*, Penn State intercollegiate compliance coordinator John Bove told the *Penn State Collegian*.

Abboud had already exhausted his eligibility before he posed nude for the magazine. "That's behind us, and we have no violation to report."

NCAA rules state that athletes are not permitted to use their image to influence the "sale, promotion, or use of any commercial product." I guess women's magazines bought by gay men would fit under that category.

Abboud, currently studying in Rome, did not offer comment. While no longer with the team, he's still enrolled as a Penn State student, and was the November cover model of *Playgirl*'s "Campus



Abboud a boy: Penn State's student body

Hunks" issue.

The magazine identifies Abboud as "Steven," a Penn State student in management and international business.

Members of the Penn State men's gymnastics team have confirmed that the man pictured in *Playgirl* is Abboud.

Gee, wouldn't that be a fun assignment, asking a men's gymnastic team to check out a nudie mag.

Bove said he would have to "look into" Abboud's posing in the magazine.

I looked, and think he should be featured in every copy of the university's recruitment literature.

Willy won't

So much more sports nudity 'round the world. Enthusiastic fans know that a locker room shot of the Dallas Cowboys last week showed one player's nether regions in a segment on WFAA Channel 8 in Dallas Fort-Worth.

Hockey player Dustin Brown of the L.A. Kings also was shown towelng off nude on his team's Web site, before its webmaster was alerted to the pleasantly surprising visual.

And way down in South Africa, a video of naked rugby players going through nude antics as part of a pre-World Cup training regimen has angered players and pundits. Pics of the burly naked men were published in every newspaper in Johannesburg.

Pay-per-view channel MNET screened the first live pictures of "Kamp Staaldraad" (Camp Steel-wire) last month, showing the national squad crawling naked through the African bush. The pictures were then broadcast internationally by Sky News television.

Former Springbok lock Schalk Burger told *planet-rugby.com* the training methods were "humiliating."

South Africa Rugby Players' Association chairman Rob van der Valk described the training methods as "barbaric and outdated."

Really? Don't they know that

it's much more hip to make a tasteful nude video indoors, with stylists and groomers, and sell it for charity, like Stade France's team?

"The intention was to toughen up the chaps by withholding their food and letting them suffer cold - and to evaluate them under such stressful conditions," said one unnamed player, whose other quotes I will now amply appropriate.

"We were all naked together at times, but so what? The only chaps who were perhaps a bit shy initially were those with small willies. At times, we ourselves asked if we could strip off our clothes. Springbok rugby players spend more time naked in one another's company during a season than with their clothes on. We shower together, walk around naked in the change-rooms, and we stay together in hotel rooms, where we see one another naked. There was nothing vulgar, dirty, or humiliating."

"Among other things, the management wanted to establish which players were more likely to be yellow- or red-carded if they came under pressure in match situations," said the player.

Match situations having rarely taken place whilst naked in a lake, one wonders about the repressed homoerotic intent of trainers.

But a former Springbok member of the winning 1995 World Cup team, Kobus Wiese, said camps were also held during his playing days, took a more relaxed view.

"Rugby players see one another naked all the time. Hey man, Balie [Swart] and I were roommates for years when we toured with the Boks. We were almost like a long-married couple - no secrets, nothing to hide."

Sounds like a Boston marriage to me! ▼

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CLASSIFIEDS

BCA

◀ page 3

Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. Previously, he worked for 11 years as a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, where he covered the impact of AIDS on ethnic communities.

A 23-year resident of San Francisco, Lang is also an ordained interfaith minister. He attended seminary in Atlanta and is a member of the Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples in San Francisco. He had served as the church's associate minister until stepping down at the beginning of this year.

During a 40-day trip to Africa earlier this year, he visited several AIDS organizations and sold an audio tape called "Triumph of the Spirit" that he made to help visitors to West Africa's slave trade sites process their experience.

"AIDS organizations there are now selling the CD as part of their additional revenue streams to raise money for themselves," said Lang, who himself is African American.

As for taking the helm of BCA, "I think our board president said it right in our press release. I was the right person for the right job at the right time," said Lang, who lives with his partner of 13 years and has two children and two grandchildren. "I have lived in San Francisco most of my adult life. I love this city. I have watched many friends die because of this epidemic. I believe I can make a contribution here that I am uniquely positioned to do."

Lang would not disclose his salary, saying only that he has signed a letter of hire with the agency and is still negotiating the terms of his contract. He referred salary questions to BCA Board President Aimee Zenzle Barnes, who could not be reached for comment.

Running the agency will be no easy task. BCA is facing budget constraints and is worried how new federal HIV prevention guidelines will impact the work that is done.

"BCA is like many other mainstream AIDS organizations and ethnic minority organizations: we truly have been forced to do more with less," said Lang. "We are going to have to come up with creative financial solutions."

As the AIDS epidemic continues to disproportionately impact the African American communi-

ty, Lang said, "There is truly enough work to be done," and that, "I think probably you will find us outreaching to women more."

Educating the larger gay community about how AIDS is impacting the black community will also be on the agenda. The *Bay Times* announced last month it had fired its advice columnist Woody Miller due to a column many in the African American community deemed racist. The paper's publisher Kim Corsaro has twice apologized for not only running the piece but also for its headline, "Black Fucks Have Aids," which inflamed black readers.

As for the incident, Lang said, "I do think the sensitivity level is low. I also think it is a distraction. I don't think we should get caught up in that kind of distraction. It is not a level of dialogue or discussion that is helpful and useful."

Even more important for Lang is addressing the African American community's resistance and misinformation about vaccine trials for new drugs aimed at protecting people against HIV. Next year the city will begin trials for several new vaccine products, and there is some concern that blacks will not sign on as volunteers.

"It is definitely on our radar screen, for sure. I think there still are misperceptions of vaccines in our community and a general mistrust of the medical system," said Lang. "Educating people about the facts needs to happen and I believe BCA needs to be a part of that."

In the meantime, the agency is focused on its upcoming fundraiser "Soulful Holidays." It has rented a caravan of motorized cable cars to take people on a tour of the city's jazz clubs.

The event will take place the evening of Friday, December 12 and is designed to raise funds to support health initiatives aimed at the black community, as well as support businesses that promote black culture.

Ticket prices for the event vary, with a benefactor level costing \$150 a person, or \$250 per couple. It includes a champagne reception as well as entrance to parties at three private homes. Or participants can buy tickets for \$75 a person that guarantees entrance to three night clubs.

Space for the event is limited. To reserve a spot, call (415) 615-9945 or purchase tickets online at www.bcoa.org. ▼

ADAP

◀ page 15

States is so high that without ADAP, virtually every HIV-positive person without prescription drug coverage would be forced into bankruptcy."

As state lawmakers look to cut costs, Koretz argued that capping ADAP would only add to California's budgetary problems.

"ADAP saves the state money by allowing HIV positive people to stay healthy so they can work, pay taxes and rent, and keep themselves out of more costly public assistance programs," said Koretz. "Governor Schwarzeneg-

ger's proposal is shortsighted and ill informed."

Openly gay Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), who is a member of the budget committee, has vowed to block the proposed cap. This past year, Laird led the successful fight against a proposed co-pay for ADAP that former Governor Gray Davis had proposed.

"As a former AIDS service agency director, I have been committed to full funding for ADAP," said Laird. "Should the governor's proposal be adopted by the Legislature, I fear that the health of Californians dependent on these life-saving drugs will suffer. This is unconscionable." ▼

Have tea

◀ page 12

voter turnouts in last month's general election.

"Samovar Tea Lounge is the perfect place for residents to meet the mayoral candidates," said Robert Sandler, one of the

owners. "We believe it's the ideal place for people to find out more about their future mayor in a mellow, apolitical, and open environment."

The tea lounge will also serve as a polling place for the runoff on Tuesday, December 9. It is located at 498 Sanchez Street, at 18th. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0271696-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mike's Urban Garden, 375 Guerrero Street Apt 2, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael B. Collins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/25/2003.

DEC. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271760-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Westwood, 236 West Portal, #334, San Francisco, CA 94127. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Marc Ballstrier. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/01/2003.

DEC. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271567-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Treasure Island Mini Mart & Deli, Building #363, Ninth Street, Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130. This business is conducted by an individual, signed George Vazhappally. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/19/2003.

NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271557-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Conscious Chiropractic and Acupuncture, Concious Chiropractic, 220 Montgomery Street, Suite 305 San Francisco, CA 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Victoria Reyzelman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/19/2003.

NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271533-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ICHATTERS.COM, 203 Noe Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jeffrey M. Glover. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/18/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/18/2003.

NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271551-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blum Inc. 39 Mesa Street, #204, San Francisco, CA 94129. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Lawrence Blum. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/19/2003.

NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271094-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: T&L Hardwood Floors, 708 35th Ave San Francisco, CA 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lam Huu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/30/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/30/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270853-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Curves for Woman 1874 Market Street/San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company signed Ellen Buchlanieri, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/22/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/21/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270588-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cloud 9 Smoke Shop, 400 Broadway San Francisco, CA 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Caroline Mai. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/09/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-54101

In the Matter of the Application of Jessica Marie Grones For change of Name. The application of Jessica Marie Grones for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jessica Marie Grones has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jessica Marie Maxwell. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 6th day of January at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541043

In the Matter of the Application of Zhi Xi Liang for Change of Name. The application of Zhi Xi Liang for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Zhi Xi Liang has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Vincent Leung. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 13, 20, 27, DEC. 4, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270827-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Citi's 101 Spear Street B-5 San Francisco, CA 94105. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Justino Matamoros. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/20/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270805-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pro Gay Jobs II 2358 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed David Bach. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/16/2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/20/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270789-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NPI Investors 479 Fair Oaks #4 San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a Husband and wife, signed Renee Schauble. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/20/2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/17/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270790-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wealth Watchers 479 Fair Oaks #4 San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a Husband and wife, signed James K Lewis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/20/2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/17/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270664-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lilbebeba 659 Ashbury Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel C. McCracken. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/14/2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/13/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0270642-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bears of San Francisco, B0SF, International Bear Rendezvous, IBR, Mr. IBR Bear Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Grizzly Bear Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Daddy Bear Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Bear Cub Contest/Title, 584 Castro San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by a coporation, signed Darwin Bebo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04/07/1994. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/14/2003.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER, SF. CA 94102 STATEMENT OF DAMAGES CASE # CGC-03-417346

David La Bua, plaintiff vs. National Car Rental Inc. & David Shane, defendants.

GENERAL DAMAGES-- Pain, suffering and inconvenience - \$70,000.00, Emotional distress- 0.00, SPECIAL DAMAGES-- Medical expenses(to date)- \$5,000.00, Future Medical expenses- \$20,000.00, Loss of earnings(to date) - 0.00, Loss of future earning capacity(present value)- \$5,000.00. Signed Lawrence M. Einhorn, associated counsel for the plaintiff.

NOV. 13, 20, 27, DEC. 4, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03541007

In the Matter of the Application of Jonathan Alan Ford For change of Name. The application of Application of Jonathan Alan Ford for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jonathan Alan Ford has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jonathan McCain Winters Ford. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 18th day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: ERNEST PRICCO, JILL PRICCO, AND DOES 1 TO 10, INCLUSIVE. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: NATHAN TAYLOR, AN INDIVIDUAL.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court.

A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz Branch, 701 Ocean Street, Rm. 110, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney or plaintiff without attorney is: Stephen P. Roberts, Belsher & Becker, 412 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; (805) 542-9900.

NOV. 13, 20, 27, DEC. 4, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER, SF. CA 94102, AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE #CPF-03-505352

HEATH STOYER, Petitioner, v. WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, a California limited liability company, and SEAN WALL, an individual, Respondents.

TO WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY and SEAN WALL: YOU ARE ORDERED to appear in Department 302 of this court, located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA, on January 13, 2004, at 9:30 am, then and there to show cause, if you have any, why the petition of HEATH STOYER for dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, and designation of HEATH STOYER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC should not be granted.

This order together with a copy of the petition on file herein and any declarations filed in support of the petition shall be served on SEAN WALL in the same manner as service of summons at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing, or as otherwise specified in an order allowing publication pursuant to CCP §415.50. Dated Nov. 4, 2003. Ronald Evans Quilodachay, Judge of the Superior Court.

NOV. 13, 20, 27, DEC. 4, 2003

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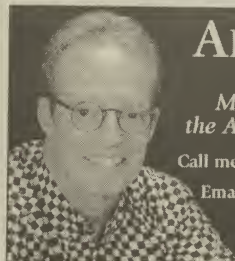
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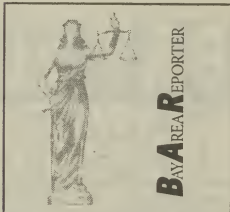
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LEGAL NOTICES

PROPERTY TAX--
FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE

Treasurer Susan Leal reminds all San Francisco property owners that the first
installment of the Secured Property Tax for 2003-2004 must be paid by 5 p.m.
on Wednesday, December 10, 2003.

Bills were mailed to all San Francisco property owners on or before November 1st. If you own
property in San Francisco County and you do not receive your bill by November 10th, please call
Taxpayer Assistance at (415) 554-4400 to have one sent to you, visit the City Payment Center in
City Hall Room 140, or look up and print your bill online at www.cityservices.sfgov.org.

VOLUNTARY ARTS CONTRIBUTION FUND

Property owners can support the arts through the City's unique Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund
(VACF). It's easy to make a difference for San Francisco's struggling arts groups by using the coupon
in the homeowner's tax bill when making the property tax payment due on December 10, 2003.
Administered by Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the VACF provides sup-
port for urgently needed equipment or capital improvements, including safety hardware, wheelchair
ramps, special lighting and fireproofing. 100% of all donations go directly to the arts groups that
need them most. For more information, call (415) 554-6710 or visit the web site at <http://sfgrta.org>.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION'S BROWN
BAG LUNCH TALKS at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursday, Noon to 1:30 PM.
The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks pre-
sented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be
provided.

December 18, 2003 Emergency response plans of DBI - earthquake and other events
Department of Building Inspection staff
NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request
materials hand out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield,
Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (SFLAFCo) is sched-
uled to hold a public hearing at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2003, in the Legislative Cham-
ber, Room 250, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place on the Draft Report on the Electric Fi-
nancial Feasibility Study. Written comments on the Draft Report will be accepted until December
5, 2003.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Mayor's Office of Community Development and Mayor's Office of Housing have moved to
an Internet-based Request for Proposals process for the 2004-2005 Community Development
Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs. The RFP will be available
only on the Internet beginning December 21, 2003. Prior to gaining access to the RFP online, ap-
plicants must complete preliminary requirements and may do so beginning December 1, 2003.

The four priorities of the CDBG and ESG programs are:
Preservation of existing or development of new affordable housing;
Preservation of existing or development of new neighborhood facilities;
Creation, retention or expansion of small businesses and economic development; and,
Neighborhood and community stabilization.

The entire application is a three-step process and information can be found at www.sfgov.org/mocd

STATEMENT FILE A-0271519-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: RoadTestReview.com 4518 18th Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Phil
Ruth. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
10/20/2003. The statement was filed with
the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
on 11/18/2003.

NOV.20,27, DEC
4,11,2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271068-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: American Board of Public Safety Medi-
cine 534 Spruce San Francisco, Ca. 94118.
This business is conducted by an in-
dividual, signed Myron H. Marshall. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-
ness name or names on 10/29/2003. The
statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
10/29/2003.

NOV.20,27, DEC
4,11,2003

PUBLIC NOTICE

Eureka Valley Recreation Center
This constitutes notice under Cali-
fornia Civil Code Sections 987 and
989 (California Art Preservation Act)
of City and County of San Francis-
co's intent to alter a wall containing a
mural by Betsy Miller-Kusz titled
"Time after Time" at the Eureka Val-
ley Recreation Center located at 100
Collingwood Street. The department
is working with the artist to integrate
the piece onto the new Teen build-
ing. Any questions should be di-
rected to Denise Loo, Recreation and
Park Department, at 415.581.2572
by December 31, 2003.

12/04/03
CNS- 611722#
BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE A-0271354-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Silken Suky 1435 Polk Street San
Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is con-
ducted by an individual, signed Tan T.
Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on NA. The
statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
11/12/2003.

NOV.20,27, DEC
4,11,2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271329-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: The Larry and Cary Show, 1377
Church Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114.
This business is conducted by a general
partnership, signed Cary M. Hersh. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-
ness name or names on 11/07/03. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 11/10/2003.

NOV.20,27, DEC
4,11,2003

STATEMENT FILE A-0271393-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: The Michael Bruno, 2267 Market
Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This
business is conducted by an individual,
signed Louis B. Brioso. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 04/10/1982. The statement was
filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 11/13/2003.

NOV.20,27, DEC
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LEGAL
NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER,
SF, CA 94102-4514. NOTICE OF
PETITION TO ADMINISTER ES-
TATE OF ROBERT JOHN MARKO.
PES-03-285371

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, con-
tingent creditors, and person who may oth-
erwise be interested in the will or estate, or
both of Robert John Marko. A petition for
probate has been filed by John L. West-
away, III in the Superior Court of Califor-
nia, 400 McAllister, SF, Ca county of San
Francisco. The petition for Probate re-
quests that John L. Westaway III be ap-
pointed as personal representative to ad-
minister the estate of the decedent. The
petition requests the decedent's will and
codicils, if any, be admitted to probate.
The will and codicils are available for ex-
amination in the file kept by the court. The
petition requests authority to administer
the estate under the Independent Adminis-
tration of Estates Act. (This authority will
allow the personal representative to take
many actions without obtaining court ap-
proval. Before taking certain very impor-
tant actions, however, the personal repre-
sentative will be required to give notice to
interested persons unless they have waived
notice or consented to the proposed action.)
The independent administration authority
will be granted unless an interested person
files an objection to the petition and shows
good cause why the court should not grant
the authority. A hearing on the petition
will be held on December 17, 2003, Pro-
bate Department, 9:00 am, Room 204, Su-
perior Court of California, County of San
Francisco, 400 McAllister Street, SF, CA
94102-4514. If you object to the granting
of the petition, you should appear at the
hearing and state your objections or file
written objections with the court before the
hearing. Your appearance may be in per-
son or by your attorney. If you are a credi-
tor or a contingent creditor of the de-
ceased, you must file your claim with the
court and mail a copy to the personal rep-
resentative appointed by the court within
four months from the date of first issuance
of letters as provided in Probate Code sec-
tion 9100. The time for filing claims will
expire before four months from the hearing
date notice above. You may examine the
file kept by the court. If you are a person
interested in the estate, you may file with
the court a Request for special Notice (form
DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and
appraisal of estate assets or of any petition
or account as provided in Probate Code
section 250. A Request for Special Notice
Form is available from the county clerk.
Petitioner: John L. Westaway III, 90
Buena Vista Terrace, San Francisco, Ca
94117. (415) 863-4891.
NOV. 27, DEC. 4, 11, 2003

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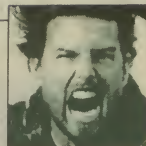
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The good, the bad, and the canceled
No surprise it got the ax: 'The Mullets'
Sorry to see it go: 'Boomtown' (Lav. Tube)
page 46

'Nutcracker' pleasure
SF Ballet finds the joy in
classic Tchaikovsky ballet.
page 34



Cruise control
Tom Cruise plays butch
in 'The Last Samurai.'
page 37



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 49 • 4 December 2003

American spirits by Tavo Amador

Justin Kirk as Prior Walter,
Ben Shenkman as Louis Ironson
in HBO's *Angels in America*



Tony Kushner's 'Angels in America' comes to HBO

Rugged individualism is a central American myth, Hardy pioneers taming the West. John Wayne, Gary Cooper, and Clint Eastwood single-handedly eliminating evil. The reality was different. Pioneers traveled in groups, helped each other build cabins and barns, plow lands, and har-

vest crops. But politically, we've been weaned on the milk of self-reliance. Often, it leads to malnutrition.

Mike Nichols' stunning HBO adaptation of Tony Kushner's epic play *Angels in America* captures the tension between individuals and community, both spiritual and material. This conflict is manifested in

the intertwining lives of characters afflicted with AIDS in New York during the mid-'80s.

In Part I, *Millennium Approaches*, Prior Walter (Justin Kirk), a descendent of the Norman conquerors, has Kaposi's Sarcoma. His lover, Louis Iron-

page 39 ►

Acid Housewife meets the Dance-Along Nutcracker

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band's annual tutu revue at YBCA by Heidi Beeler

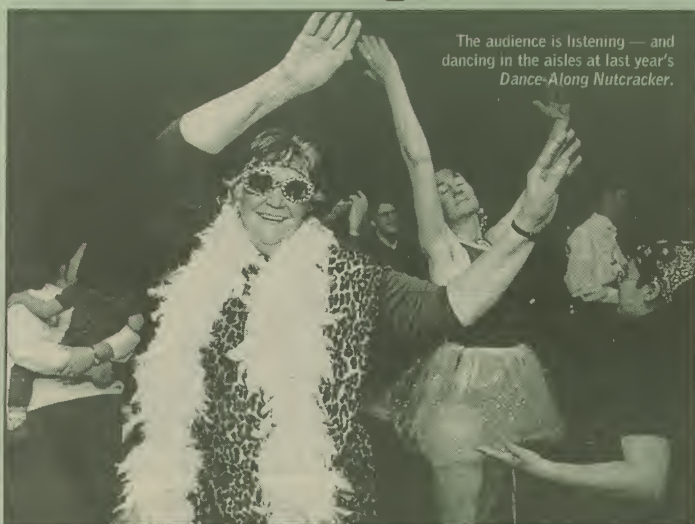
This weekend, Acid Housewife Rhonda Wilcox (aka actor Kim Larsen) trades in her polyester pants-suit and blonde wig for a top hat and morning coat, when he transforms into Phileas Fogg for the 2003 *Dance-Along Nutcracker* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

The *Dance-Along Nutcracker* is the annual holiday lollapalooza put on by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, conducted and directed by Artistic Director Jadine Louie. It's perhaps best described as a cross between a variety show, a costume pageant and the choreographic equivalent of a barn-raising in toe shoes. Audience members so inclined strap on tutus and tiaras from the Tutu Rental Boutique (if they haven't brought their own) and storm the dance floor as the Band performs "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy," "Waltz of the Flowers," and all the Tchaikovsky-Fantasia favorites.

Between dance-along numbers, guest artists perform feature numbers on a theme, and that's where Larsen comes in. This year's theme is "Around the World," and as in the Jules Verne classic of 80 days' duration, Larsen as Phileas Fogg dashes from continent to continent, has a superficial brush with the locals in exotic settings and rushes onward to stay on "shed-jule." Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* seems to play along with the gag with movements like the Chinese Dance, the Arabian Dance and the Russian Trepak.

An ongoing cast member of another musical revue about travel, Shelton Theatre's long-running *Are We Almost There?*, Larsen plays a world adventurer-

next page ►



The audience is listening — and dancing in the aisles at last year's *Dance-Along Nutcracker*.

Jane Philomen Cleveland

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

A 'Nutcracker' made for adults

San Francisco Ballet's current take on the perennial classic

by Stephanie von Buchau

Whenever I see San Francisco Ballet's *Nutcracker* (and I've been witnessing it since 1966, three productions ago), I remember a smart-ass art student who called Paolo Veronese, my favorite Renaissance painter, "the interior decorator." Both SFB's previous *Nutcrackers* (1967-85, by Robert O'Hearn) and the current one (new in '86, by Jose Varona) were designed on the "interior decorator" principle:

please the client, even if the client has a sweet tooth.

I'm not suggesting that a new SFB *Nutcracker*, rumored for next year, be ugly to look at or sport an emotional disconnect like some of San Francisco Opera's recent new productions — *Nutcracker* in the Twin Towers, for instance — but less of a combination Kelly Moore-Toys 'R Us approach and more of something with class, vision and adult taste would be welcome.

Because the opera is not playing in December this year, SFB opened its *Nutcracker* run on No-

vember 28. Judging from the Saturday matinee after Thanksgiving, it is going to do well. Kids were everywhere, and though some of them misbehave, most of them are spellbound. I heard a few little girls across the aisle sigh audibly when Lorena Feijoo did her final fish-dive into the stalwart arms of Ruben Martin. This is a promising partnership, though they still don't look as comfortable as an old shoe in the more intricate parts of the duet.

Feijoo offers something for the Daddies in the crowd: a real woman with regal presence, that handsome, wedge-shaped torso, and a Grecian profile, who dances with more authority and gravitas than your local Sugar Plum Fairy. No doubt who is Queen of this "Land of Sweets," though she has too much self-control to indulge in all that overabundant strawberry mousse.

Also easy-on-the-eye candy were Elana Altman, the blue-clad (or rather unclad) houri in "Arabian Coffee" (she's a lot prettier than Mark Morris, though not sexier), and Frances Chung as the Butterfly. Chung is small but curvy and has beautiful proportions and placement, plus she sparkled in the center of the "Waltz of the Flowers," with the poor girls' corps still encased in those hideously-cut dresses, another strong reason for a new production.

Sugar shock

I hadn't seen *Nutcracker* in about three years, and a few things have been done to clean up some of Varona's excesses, though nothing short of demolition will get rid of the plastic bees and waddling gluttons of the sugary second act. The Miriltins have lost their paper powdered wigs, and the silver gate that used to open the second act is gone. It was one more gaudy set piece, but it did make the Angels on tiptoe (uncredited in the program) look magical.

Also gone is the giant



SF Ballet's Lorena Feijoo (Sugar Plum Fairy), Ruben Martin (Cavalier)

snowflake projected on a scrim during the overture. I almost didn't notice it because I was shushing the kids around me. Parents, please teach them that once the music starts, even if nobody is dancing, they should pay attention. Especially now, because the performance was conducted by the new music director, Andrew Mogrelia. There were places — the rising of the tree, the Snow scene, the Grand Pas de Deux — where I swore he was channeling the late Denis de Coteau. It was the best Tchaikovsky conducting I've heard since Denis left us, and he was my all-time favorite Tchaikovsky ballet conductor.

I know SFB makes its money by pushing *Nutcracker* as a kid's entertainment (which is why I try to avoid those hectic opening nights), but this great ballet is no *Cat in the Hat* flick, succeeding on crass merchandising. It requires superb music-making (which it gets), an intelligent production (Helgi Tomasson can be trusted with that), and lively choreography (Lew and William Christensen's contributions need to be replaced with something that

makes a talented new generation of dancers look less awkward).

It already has the dancers. Katita Waldo (looking ageless, though she's been in the company since '88) and Stephen Legate were positively stunning in the "Kingdom of Snow." (I can remember SFB boys falling into the wings trying to carry ballerinas aloft just 20 years ago.) Hansuke Yamamoto is an archetypal jumping jack in "Chinese Tea." Steven Norman does repeated splits in the air, touching both toes, in Anatole Vilzak's "Russian Cossacks," and Chung may be the most serenely beautiful Butterfly I've ever seen in this production.

Add Feijoo and Martin, at a matinee yet (most international dance companies would be happy to field a pair like that on opening night), and SFB has the nucleus for a stunning new production to come. It all depends on who is chosen to design it and how seriously adult Tomasson feels he can go without spoiling the kiddies' franchise. In the meantime, this is your last chance to witness history and have a walloping good time. ▼

Dance-Along

◀ Arts cover

er, and his joining the *Dance-Along* cast has been its own kind of exploration. Larsen auditioned for the show partly out of curiosity about how a cattle call in tutus works, and found himself hula-dancing in a tikki mask to ukulele music and performing in a Balinese-style puppet show. Created by Janaki Ranpura and I Made Moja, the shadow puppet show is performed to John Barnes Chance's "Variations on a Korean Folk Song." Larsen said he and the other puppeteers are building the puppets and screen sets specifically for the show as they develop the story, so he's learning the roots of the craft.

"I had worked with Heart of the Beast Puppet Mask Theater in Minneapolis, which is one of the premier puppet mask theaters in the country, but I'd never really done shadow puppetry," Larsen said. "It's amazing what they can do. A little puppet that is maybe six inches tall: you get that close to the light, and it fills the entire back wall."

Around the town

Larsen's career itself has been something of a tour of all things Bay Area theatrical. After 8 years in Minneapolis and a brief stint in Chicago, he moved to San Fran-

cisco in 1991. Having seen the PBS documentary on Theatre Rhinoceros' *AIDS Show*, the first theatrical response to the AIDS epidemic, he made a bee-line for auditions at Rhino as soon as he got into town.

"That was the first place I went to audition in town, because I thought I'd meet a lot of men," Larsen said. "It was ironic. I got cast in an all-lesbian show, except for me: a lesbian musical about two lesbians having a baby, and they decided the sperm donor would be a good gay male friend of theirs. I played the gay male friend. It was ahead of its time in '91."

Since that first production, Larsen has acted in many Theatre Rhino productions, including *The Desk Set*, *The Last Hairdresser*, *Twelfth Night* and the original musical *Cradle and All*. He's acted on the main stage and in touring productions with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, as well as in productions of 42nd Street Moon and Thrillpeddlers. He's even written two original musicals himself, including *The Year of Living Androgynously*, which was performed at the Zephyr Theatre prior to his moving here.

One of the productions Larsen said he is most proud of was back at Rhino, a studio run of *Waiting for Godot* performed in drag. The Samuel Beckett Estate found out

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Capital gang

'The Exonerated' at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

There is the stuff of at least six TV-movies in *The Exonerated*, but this unusual stage offering wraps it all up in just 90 minutes. The tidiness of the presentation is in stark contrast with the messiness of six lives interrupted by the years wrongly spent on death row. These are horror stories made dramatically palatable in an effort to toss the net as widely as possible.

The message is simple: Enforcement of the law is subjective and fallible, but a realized death sentence erases possibilities of correction. It's a message that authors Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen help audiences infer from the first-person accounts of those whose innocence was proven, usually by modern DNA evidence, before the ultimate sentences were carried out.

Even for those who find some degree of satisfaction in capital punishment, the unscrupulous work by prosecutors, sloppy work by court-appointed defense attorneys, and, most scarily, the readiness of juries to buy these scenarios should be chilling.

Consider the case of Kerry Max Cook. He worked at a gay bar in Texas and lived in the same apartment complex with a young woman who turned up butchered to death. Her death, the prosecution convinced a jury, was based on Cook's "warped homosexual



The core company was augmented by Amanda Plummer, Robin Williams.

lust for blood and perversion," and the prosecutor went on to warn "all the freaks and perverts and murderous homosexuals of the world" that execution awaits them if he has anything to say about it.

The prosecutor's words come directly from court transcripts, and all the words heard in *The Exonerated* are based either on public documents or the interviews that Blank and Jensen conducted with six victims of judicial injustice. With actors seated on a row of stools, the individual stories, interwoven with the others, are revealed in small packets of information following similar trajectories: a back story, a crime, the prosecution, imprisonment, and exoneration.

Created as an ensemble piece that requires no stars, the touring production nevertheless betters its box-office chances by augmenting the core company of six solid actors with a pair of celebrities

that changes each week. Opening week had a restrained but sincere Robin Williams as Kerry Max Cook, and a perfectly cast Amanda Plummer as a quirky life force named Sunny Jacobs.

When the actual Sunny Jacobs joined the company onstage at the curtain call, she said, through tears, "I'm happy to be here. I'm happy to be anywhere." This is the kind of resiliency that the authors focus upon: the story, really, of the journeys back to humanity. ▼

The Exonerated runs at the Curran Theatre through Dec. 21. Tickets are \$35-\$68. The remaining schedule features Montel Williams & Aidan Quinn through Dec. 7, Brian Dennehy & Stockard Channing Dec. 9-14, and Penn Jillette & Peter Coyote Dec. 16-21. Call 512-7770 or go to hestofbroadway-sf.com.

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Childhood's end

It's 'Zero Day' in teens' suburban hell

by David Lambie

A shockingly intimate act takes place about a third of the way through the new film *Zero Day*, opening Friday. A 16-year-old blonde boy is lying back in an adjustable chair as a middle-aged man sticks a pair of pliers in his mouth. It's a rite of passage. Cal Gabriel (Calvin Robertson) is having his lower braces removed. The dentist jokes to an unseen person holding the videocamera, whom he calls "Spielberg." "You should have gotten him when we started, when his teeth were so messy."

All through writer/director Ben Coccio's first feature, we get kissing-close to Cal and his best friend Andre Kriegman (Andre Keuck) as they drive around their suburban Connecticut town, go shopping at the mall, joke with Andre's parents (played by actor Keuck's real parents) at Andre's 18th birthday party, attend an

open-mike poetry reading, and ponder whether to attend their senior prom (Cal goes, Andre doesn't). All the while, Cal and Andre, in their guise as an "Army of Two," painstakingly plan a Columbine-style massacre at their high school.

This fourth and probably last of the Columbine films (*Bowling for Columbine*; *Bang, Bang, You're Dead*; and *Elephant*) is an astutely observed minor classic in the neo-realist school pioneered by *Open City*, the 1945 film about Italian partisan guerrillas fighting the Nazi occupation of Rome co-written by Federico Fellini and directed by Roberto Rossellini.

It may seem farfetched to many of us that Cal and Andre feel their school is occupied by forces hostile to them (led, they believe, by the captain of the wrestling team, who asserts his alpha-male privilege behind the wheel of a Range Rover), but they do so feel. The first "mission" in their campaign towards *Zero Day* has Cal and

Andre pelting Brad Hupp's house with rotten eggs, while muttering childish obscenities.

Cal and Andre have their models in fiction: their early pranks smack of a Tom and Huck who tragically don't meet Jim or get the hell out of town on a raft. Their fixation on shooting up the school has a Leopold and Loeblike obsessiveness without an explicitly homo-fueled bonding.

Filmmaker Coccio shrewdly avoids a scene where Cal and Andre kiss, correctly believing that any kind of sexual expression would take their story down an unpredictably different path. But just because they aren't directly stated doesn't mean that homo urges don't lurk somewhere in a stewpot of intense emotions that do bind these boys. Rumors that Eric Harris had the hots for Dylan Klebold and that repression of this socially unacceptable urge pushed their complex chemistry down a far more twisted path are just that, rumors.



Andre Keuck as Andre Kriegman, Calvin Robertson as Cal Gabriel

Zero Day's format, a story told almost exclusively through Cal and Andre's videodiaries (they're keeping 30 hours of tape in a safe-deposit box for CNN's Wolf Blitzer), provides just the right emotional subtext: the banal passage of time marked by routine hardware-store errands, a shopping-channel-style display of all the different caliber choices in guns, and an authentic snarky-teen tone. Robertson and Keuck make good use of their high-school Shakespeare training. They have presence without the intrusive technique of more seasoned actors. The videodiaries ultimately stand for all the things Cal and Andre don't want their classmates or parents to know about them, and for all the good traits they refuse to see in other people.

The movie is flooded with

memories of childhood's end: actors Cal and Andre's actual baby pictures; then the frenzied flash of a kid captured by the school security camera, dodging a bullet while sneaking back for his knapsack and tossing off a heartfelt "fuck you" to the teen triggermen; the casual cruelty expressed towards gays and social rejects by classmates during a stretch-limo ride to the prom; Andre's lone reference to Cal's beauty during a debate over who did and did not get invited to the prom ("It must be your pretty-boy blonde good looks"); Andre's dad's jocular relationship with a son who he thinks is growing into a young man he'll be proud of; and Cal's mom's joy for how straight her beautiful son's teeth appear after years of dental visits. "It was worth it," she beams. ▼

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Male bonding 'From Here to Eternity'

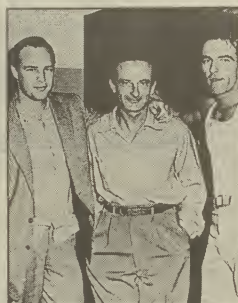
by Tavo Amador

The army's masculine camaraderie is explored in Fred Zinnemann's celebrated 1953 adaptation of James Jones' novel *From Here to Eternity*, given a 50th anniversary run at the Castro Theatre December 5-11. Set in Hawaii on the eve of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the film reveals powerful, unspoken homoerotic attachments among servicemen, as well as the pressure to conform and the cruelty inflicted on anyone who won't.

Pvt. Prewitt (Montgomery Clift) transfers into a new company, unofficially run by Sgt. Warden (Burt Lancaster). Prewitt befriends Maggio (Frank Sinatra), but angers the corrupt Commanding Officer, Captain Holmes (Philip Ober), by refusing to join the company's boxing team. That leads to brutal treatment from the noncommissioned officers, Warden excepted.

Holmes' wife Karen (a stunning, blonde Deborah Kerr) has a reputation for infidelity, and succumbs to Warden's buffed charms. Meanwhile, Maggio takes Prewitt to a "dance hall" where he meets a "hostess," Alma (Donna Reed), known as Lurlene. At the club, Maggio clashes with Fatso (Ernest Borgnine), the Stockade Sergeant.

These passions and conflicts are shown in swift, well-written scenes crackling with tension. The most emotional relationship is between the idealistic Prewitt and the jocular Maggio. When the latter dies from Fatso's vicious beatings, Prewitt hauntingly honors his life by playing taps. Clift's handsome face movingly conveys



Marlon Brando on the set with Fred Zinnemann & Montgomery Clift.

heartbreak. Later, he avenges his friend's death.

Clift's brilliance is matched by Lancaster as the efficient, cynical Warden — he knows how to work the system and cannot understand Prewitt's constant bucking of it. Kerr, in a career-reviving role she got when Joan Crawford withdrew from the production, combines a lusty, hard-bitten passion with rueful sensitivity. Her famous roll on the beach with Lancaster became a much-parodied classic moment. Reed, hitherto an unremarkable ingenue, is affecting as the prostitute who falls for Prewitt against her own good judgment, while dreaming of bourgeois respectability. Sinatra is good if facile in his first dramatic performance.

The film won Oscars for Best Picture, Director, Supporting Actor and Actress (Sinatra, Reed), Adapted Screenplay (Daniel Taradash), Cinematography, and Sound. Clift, Lancaster, and Kerr were also nominated for their work. ▼

FILM

Sally Samurai

Tom Cruise goes to Japan

by Robert Julian

In Ed Zwick's *The Last Samurai*, there's lots of talk about the ancient ways of the Samurai, and lots of America-bashing in the form of an evil American ambassador trying to hammer out a trade agreement with the Emperor of Japan. The film also draws parallels between the United States' treatment of Native Americans and Japan's dismissal of the Samurai tradition by those who sought to train a modern army. Blood spews, and horses crash to the ground in battle sequences lovingly shot in slow motion; sets and costumes are first-rate; and the lush score by Hans Zimmer employs an army of violins to orchestrate the emotional upheaval imagined by the filmmakers. Yet it only takes a few minutes to cut through all this pretentious crapola and realize that *The Last Samurai* is just a horse opera in Japanese drag.

Tom Cruise plays the drunken Civil War hero Captain Nathan Algren, who once served under General Custer and now, in 1876 San Francisco, finds himself haunted by memories of slaughtering innocent "Injuns." Algren performs in a carnival sideshow until he gets an offer to go to Japan as a mercenary. He goes; he trains soldiers for the "modern" Japanese army; and he gets captured in battle by a band of Samurai soldiers. Yup, you guessed it. Quicker than you can say *Sayonara*, the leader of the Samurai band (Ken Watanabe) transforms the whitebread Algren into one of

the boys. From this point forward, it's strictly good (Cruise) vs. evil.

The Achilles' heel at the base of this affair is the fact that Cruise does not have the gravitas to assay this role. Based upon his carefully layered haircut and lovingly photographed close-ups, one can only assume the toothsome Cruise graduated *cum laude* from the Jose Eber "shake your head, darling" school of Samurai. When he emerges in a red suit of Samurai armor, the audience laughs out loud. Ken Watanabe, solid and stoic as the great warrior Katsumoto, is wasted by being forced to play Tonto-San to Cruise's Lone Ranger. And if all this macho chicanery isn't enough, Shichinosuke Nakamura plays the Emperor of Japan as an extremely effeminate, spineless cipher who can only find his *cojones* with Cruise's help. Did the producers think this form of subliminal gay-bashing was necessary to compensate for Cruise's lack of testosterone?

The Last Samurai gives me new respect of the accomplishments of aged Nancy-boy Richard "Shogun" Chamberlain, and mixed-race mongrel Keanu "Matrix" Reeves. Despite their physical limitations, they both transformed themselves into credible action heroes. But with his distinctly 21st-century speech, mannerisms and affect, Cruise has zero credibility as a 19th-century military man. No amount of shouting or carefully choreographed battle sequences can compensate for this fundamental cognitive dissonance.

Producer/writer/director

Cruise plays Civil War hero Captain Nathan Algren in *The Last Samurai*.

Zwick delivers a film that looks good on the screen. But two-and-a-half hours of this distinctly Hollywood production becomes too much of a mediocre thing. Some good actors deliver nice performances in supporting roles (Timothy Spall, Tony Goldwyn and Billy Connolly), but they have little cumulative effect on the overall impact of these proceedings. *The Last Samurai* will probably get a bunch of Oscar nominations. But if you're feeling like something Japanese, I recommend the Kabuki Hot Springs or a nice helping of sushi. *Opens Friday.* ▼

Dance-Along

◀ page 34

and threatened to shut the tiny production down, because Beckett had explicitly stated that the roles were never to be performed by women. Despite the director's protests that the play starred two men dressed in women's clothes, the Estate refused to budge, until the actors agreed to lose the dresses. Yes, according to the Beckett

Estate, it is the basic cloth dress that ultimately defines gender.

"We got rid of the dresses, but we kept the makeup, the jewelry, the attitude and the accessories, and that was okay with them," Larsen laughed. "We hung the dresses in the lobby with an explanation."

The Beckett Estate took notice of Larsen's drag abilities, but it was Acid Housewife, the drag rock group started by Mark Sargent (Janet Fly) with Joe Collins (Trau-

ma Flintstone), that initiated him into the genre. The members approached him in 2000 after one of the original four members left the Bay Area. Larsen told them he'd never done drag performance, but the Housewives assured him his musical abilities were what they were after, and they'd handle getting him dressed.

"Now I can dress myself," Larsen said, "but at the beginning, they really did dress me up and

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Chaos theory

'Noises Off' comes to Marines Memorial

by Richard Dodds

In *Noises Off*, playwright Michael Frayn has written a comedy about a farce. At least that's how the play starts off, as a second-tier acting company rehearses an inane sex farce for a second-tier tour of the UK. But as *Noises Off* progresses, it morphs more and more into what it's mocking. It's probably by design — Frayn (Copenhagen) is too

smart a playwright to do otherwise — but this double dose of mindless mania, albeit well-constructed, can actually become a bit annoying amid all the laughter.

Frayn himself addressed the problem by revising his 1982 script for recent London and Broadway revivals, and that is the version used in the well-received San Jose Rep production that has transferred to Marines Memorial Theatre. Under Richard Seyd's direction, this is a quality mounting

with several choice comic performances that never did stop amusing most of the opening-night audience in SF.

The first act takes place at the near-disastrous final rehearsal before the faux-farce *Nothing On* is to open in Weston-super-Mare. The second act takes place backstage during a fully disastrous performance in Ashton-Under-Lyne. We are back onstage for the third act, which is the uber-disastrous final performance in Stockton-on-Tees.

It's a wonderful device indeed to let us see what is happening backstage (thanks to John Iacovelli's revolving set) during the comedy we saw being rehearsed in the first act. At first, the backstage calamities and rivalries that the company attempts to hide from the audience are comic versions of plausible situations. But before the act is over, the cast has evolved into cartoon characters in cartoon situations. The laughs may still be forthcoming, but these laughs exercise a more quickly sated part of the brain.

Director Seyd is an old hand at *Noises Off*, having first directed it in 1988 for Marin Theatre Company in a production that also wound up moving to Marines Memorial. After a run in San Jose, the current classy company headed by TV sitcom veteran Jane Carr is also well experienced at the fast-paced proceedings and oversized characterizations.

Noises Off has been called one of the funniest comedies ever writ-



Director Lloyd Dallas (Adrian Neil), actress Brooke Ashton (Jamie Day)

ten, and that may true if volume of laughter is the criteria. But sometimes with this play, it can feel like you're being tickled. You laugh, but you also want it to stop. ▼

Noises Off will run through Jan. 11 at Marines Memorial Theatre. Tickets are \$40-\$60. Call (877)-771-6900 or go to tickets.com.

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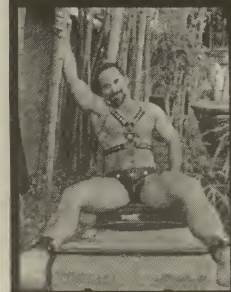
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Dance-Along

◀ previous page

put me in makeup. The first time I was petrified."

Now Larsen appears as Acid Housewife Rhonda Wilcox. He described her as the professional girl of the group, a blonde real-estate agent in a pants-suit whose theme song is "Love Shack." She was married to an IT professional but suspected he was gay, and they divorced when he came out.

"The public has no idea what we go through in creating these characters," Larsen said. "We have this whole personal history for each character, and they evolve each year as we go along."

When Larsen isn't on stage, he finds ways to support theater behind the scenes. He is the current president of Theatre Rhinoceros' board, a post he's stepping down from this January after four years. He's worked in group sales for the SF Shakespeare Festival and worked for Theater Bay Area, a nonprofit theater-service organization. In 2000, he launched *Gay Pocker San Francisco*, a slick quarterly events guide for gay tourists.

Larsen will be joined in the *Dance-Along* by Steven McKearney as Phileas Fogg's manservant, Passepartout. McKearney, who

appeared in last year's production, is a trained operatic singer whose range extends from bass up to countertenor. He'll be featured as both Carmen and the toreador when the world tour arrives in Spain. The Band's champion twirler, Ed Boeke, twirls knives for the Pacific Island segment. All three will perform with Janaki Ranpura and I Made Moja in the shadow puppet show. Various guest artists will rotate performances for each show: the cast of *Christmas with the Crawfords* will perform as Brazilian bombshell Carmen Miranda and the Andrews Sisters, Trent Morant will sing an African-style feature, Stinging Nettle Longsword will perform traditional longsword dance, and the Dixieland Dykes +3 will perform New Orleans jazz for the gala.

"It's going to be an incredible show," Larsen said. "I'm just really excited to be a part of it." ▼

Heidi Beeler has played trumpet with the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band since 1991. The *Dance-Along Nutcracker* plays Sat., Dec. 6 at 2:30 & 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Info: (415) 255-1355 or dancelongnutcracker.org.

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FILM

Character actor supreme

Chatting with James Cromwell about Red Scare Hollywood

by Tavo Amador

James Cromwell has been Stretch Cunningham, Archie Bunker's blue-collar colleague on *All in the Family*; the farmer in *Babe*; and the corrupt cop in *LA Confidential*, among many people. He was in San Francisco for the premiere of HBO's *Angels in America*, in which he plays Harold, the doctor who confronts Roy Cohn (Al Pacino) with an AIDS diagnosis. Cromwell was using a cane — the lanky actor broke his leg in a bicycle accident. We sat in a quiet section of the Four Seasons lobby, sipped water,

and spoke about his and his father's career.

Born in '40, he's the son of veteran director John Cromwell, whose films include Bette Davis' star-making role in *Of Human Bondage* ('34) and Hedy Lamarr's sensational American debut in *Algiers* ('38). In the late '40s, the elder Cromwell was denounced as a Communist by his "friend," actor Adolphe Menjou. He survived but grew disenchanted with Hollywood, and returned to Broadway with *Sabrina Fair* and *Mary, Mary*.

"Hollywood," said Cromwell, "is sanitized, run by large corporations." Hence, he was delighted

when director Mike Nichols asked him to appear in *Angels*, which hasn't been softened for the screen.

Cohn, a central character in *Angels*, was a key player during the horrendous Red Scare of the late '40s and early '50s. I asked Cromwell how he felt about playing opposite a fictional Cohn, in view of his father's experience. "That's an interesting question. I hadn't seen the play. I didn't understand the scene until Pacino got there."

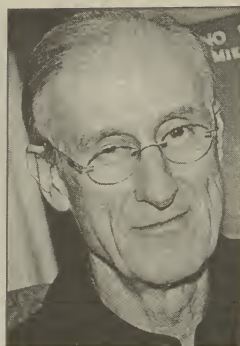
Pacino, he said, "is a magnificent actor at the top of his game. His capacity to create a repellent human being who finally wins your compassion is amazing." Cohn, afflicted with AIDS in the '80s, was among the few who could have done something about it. "Cohn could have called Reagan for help. But that would have meant admitting he had AIDS, and he wouldn't do that. He sacrificed many lives."

Working with Nichols was

great. "He knows exactly what he wants. Because he's been a performer, he creates an atmosphere in which actors feel empowered to do courageous work." That atmosphere is crucial, since "you don't have to tell Pacino and [costars] Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson much."

I asked about classic Hollywood stories. "Well, I met my future father-in-law, Lee J. Cobb, when I was four. My wife hadn't been born yet. Frederic March saved my life. He was at our home for a party. I'd snuck into the bathroom to mix a harmless concoction. When I heard him coming, I ran to my room, but dropped the glass and severely cut my foot. I crawled into bed, and Freddie decided to look in on me — his own child was about my age. He saw that I was bleeding, called for help, and tied a tourniquet on my leg, saving me."

While filming *Babe*, had he thought of WC Fields' statement about hating to work with chil-

At the Castro for *Angels* premiere

dren and animals? Cromwell, a vegan and animal-rights activist, laughed. "I think Fields knew better, but wanted to keep the secret to himself. The piglet who played *Babe* had been squealing all day long, until I picked him up. Then he behaved perfectly." As for kids: "You can't fool them. They know if you're lying as an actor."

Cromwell doesn't have to worry: his work has impeccable integrity, and, like all great character actors, each of his performances is unique. Harold in *Angels* is no exception. ▼

Angels in America

◀ Arts cover

son (Ben Shenkman), is in denial about Prior's illness; when he can't deny it, he abandons him. Louis befriends a married Mormon attorney, Joe Pitt (the beautiful Patrick Wilson), who has been fighting his homosexuality for years. Joe's wife Harper (Mary-Louise Parker) is hooked on Valium. His mother Hannah (Meryl Streep) won't face the reality of her son's life. Joe's professional mentor, the ferociously powerful, closeted attorney Roy Cohn (Al Pacino), tells his doctor, Harold (James Cromwell), that he can't have AIDS because he's not homosexual. Prior's best friend and former lover, Belize (Jeffrey Wright), a nurse, knows the truth about Prior's and Cohn's conditions, and ministers to both. Emma Thompson plays an understanding nurse and the eponymous Angel. Hovering in the distance is President Ronald Reagan, who didn't mention AIDS for years, and did nothing to combat the disease.

Kushner adapted his Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, which works beautifully on film. It begins with Louis and Prior attending a Jewish memorial service for Louis' grandmother. Prior tells Louis his lesions are worse, but Louis won't listen. In one stunning scene after another, Kushner reveals why their four-and-a-half year relationship isn't strong enough to withstand the horrors befalling Prior. It's too much for them to handle, both medically and emotionally. There appears to be no help.

But Cohn can help. He can get

new, experimental drugs. He can call Reagan to insist the federal government do more, much more. But he won't. He's filled with internalized anti-Semitism and homophobia. He admits to sex with men, but that doesn't make him homosexual, because homosexuals are weak, pathetic creatures, and he's an important, well-connected man. He can grab the phone to speak with anyone who matters. Hence, he cannot have AIDS, he has liver cancer. When he finally obtains AZT, it's for himself — he won't help others.

Pacino is astonishing as Cohn—all his familiar bombast creating a riveting portrayal of a truly despicable man. He's more than a mere villain, he's one of the most troubled, frightened, and terrifying characters in literature. Pacino makes him human and worthy of compassion. His confrontation with Harold, superbly played by Cromwell, is breathtaking. Even Cohn didn't deserve AIDS. And only a Cohn wouldn't pity him.

Prophet, not saint

Kirk's Prior is just as complex. His fear of death and his physical agony are wrenching. His anger and hurt at Louis' betrayal are moving. His inability to understand Louis' dilemma makes him human, not a saintly victim. Shenkman's Louis is scathingly honest and self-loathing, desperately seeking forgiveness. As Joe falls in love with him, guilt and terror manifest themselves in Louis, and he, too, breaks your heart.

Wilson's Joe simmers, then boils as he surrenders to long-

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Sensuous stirrings

A fortnight with the San Francisco Symphony and guest conductors

by Philip Campbell

For the last two weeks, San Francisco Symphony audiences have been treated to yet another round of guest conductors. Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas has been in New York introducing concerts in Carnegie Hall's *Perspective* series.

We can envy MTT for spending his autumn in New York, but he will be back home the first

week in December. Even without his charismatic presence, things have been going very well. One young conductor, making his local debut, proved to be a real discovery, and his concerts probably guaranteed a return invitation.

Last week, Alasdair Neale, former Associate Conductor of the SFS for 12 years, returned to Davies Hall with violinist Elmar Oliveira. It was a pleasure watching him work again, even if the evening was less than electrifying.

Opening with Marius Constant's brilliant orchestration of Ravel's lovely piano score *Gaspard de la nuit* was an inspired choice. It led perfectly into Oliveira's appearance in the Saint-Saens Violin Concerto No. 3 in B minor.



Neale provided mystery and drama.

The orchestra clearly has affection for Neale, and they followed his direction beautifully in the sensuous Ravel. There was a delicious transparency in the strings, which also had just enough heft to support Constant's often daring

choice of instrumentation. The mystery and drama of the piece is shot through with tricky rhythms that really posed no threat due to the conductor's carefully molded interpretation.

Oliveira made his SF debut 20 years ago, and he had many enthusiastic fans in the audience. Unfortunately, his performance was slightly below par, flawed by frequent tuning problems. When Sarah Chang knocked everyone's socks off recently, she tuned before movements. I was surprised at the time, but now see how wise her decision was. Tuning problems weren't enough to spoil the entire Concerto, and Oliveira improved as he went along. By the time he launched into the exciting final movement, things were set right.

Finnish first

The best concert of the past fortnight was definitely the program featuring Finnish conductor Sakari Oramo. Presently Simon Rattle's successor as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, he was making his SFS debut.

The repertoire was adventurous, balanced, and a little on the somber side. But any concert that includes Sibelius has got me at hello. The evening began with the

first SFS performances of Kaija Anneli Saariaho's *Du cristal* (*From Crystal*). At first the orchestra makes a mass of sound that is monolithic and seemingly static. After a while, slight activity becomes apparent, and there's a sense of wandering in a frigid but surprisingly lively landscape.



Oramo showed balance, persuasion.

It may not be to everyone's taste, and Oramo was smart to include another Finnish composer's more lyrical utterances later. Still, Saariaho displays an awesome command of the orchestra, and the relatively brief piece managed to make quite an impression.

The Symphony's principal violist Geraldine Walther is a regular concert soloist, and she never ceases to amaze. Her appearance in the Bartok Viola Concerto went a long way towards warming the audience up.

The searching opening monologue and the thrilling finale showed Walther's impressive range and virtuosity to full advantage. The most self-effacing of performers, she nevertheless has become one of the orchestra's best-loved members, proving that still waters truly do run deep.

The second half of the bill was given over to Sibelius: a lithe and persuasive reading of the remarkably concise (and endearingly ambiguous) Sixth Symphony and the late tone poem *Tapiola*. Oramo had the measure of both scores, and the darkness of *Tapiola* served as suitable closing ballast for the equally chilly *Du cristal*. ▼

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DISCS

Orthodox and unorthodox behavior

Sandi Dubowski's 'Trembling Before G-d'

by David Lamble

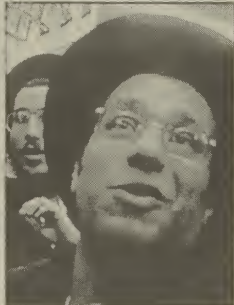
Just out on DVD and in time for the holiday (dare I say Christmas) shopping rush is a handsome box set edition of *Trembling Before G-d*, Sandi Simcha Dubowski's pioneering documentary about the hidden lives of gay and lesbian Orthodox and Hasidic Jews.

In a society that celebrates freedom of (and some would argue from) religion and separation of church and state, precious little time is spent seriously discussing religious issues. Since homosexuality is treated, at best, as a heresy by each of the major faiths, gay people have recently assumed the burden of conducting what little dialogue there is on the modern clash between sexual identity and religious orthodoxy. More than a mere coming out vehicle for still another group of religiously damaged queer people, *Trembling Before G-d* is one of the rare American films that succeeds in producing serious drama from such dialogue. It's a feat also pulled off in Arthur Dong's *Family Fundamentals*, about conservative Christians who have disowned their gay children; and Tasha Oldham's *The Smith Family*, the emotionally searing tale of a gay Mormon man's return to his family and faith after infecting his wife with the HIV virus.

Set in Orthodox communities around the globe, from Jerusalem to London to San Francisco, *Trembling* profiles persons as diverse as the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi (Steve Greenberg), to deeply closeted and married Hasidic queers, to very out individuals kicked out of Orthodox families. Particularly moving is the account of Israel Fishman, a 50something gay man who, in the film, still yearns to be succeeded by his 98-year-old Orthodox father. Rejecting his faith for a secular Brooklyn life with a lover of many years, Fishman conducts sightseeing trips to his old neighborhood, where he directs tourists to such unlikely attractions as sidewalk flea markets with great buys on toilet tissue.

In interviews, Sandi Dubowski is quick to admit that he was an unlikely candidate to direct a film about a crisis in faith. "I grew up conservative Jewish in Brooklyn, and I don't think I ever did Shabbat growing up. This film was my emergence into observance. I always had a warm feeling towards Judaism. I had the old ladies who would come up to me and grab my arm, when I did my bar mitzvah."

One of those little old ladies appears in Dubowski's short film *Tomboychik*, the then 24-year-old filmmaker trading wigs and confessions with his then 88-year-old "Bubba," or grandmother. While Bubba comes out as a mannish woman, young Sandi stopped short of saying he was queer. "I feel like we had as queer a relationship as could be, so coming out as gay, I don't think would have meant something to her. She had this 19th-century view of sexuality where you could be butch, fem, drag queen/king, but as long as you married and reproduced,



The film's tour aroused passions.

you were normal. When playing with wigs and her telling me I'd be beautiful as a girl, we were in the playground."

A beautiful transfer of *Tomboychik* is included on the DVD's extra-features disc. That disc starts off with a short film detailing *Trembling*'s pilgrimage-like exhibition circuit around the globe. One funny feature describes the ancient Jewish atonement ceremony for sexual sins, which turns out to be rolling in snow. It's an irony considering the opening scene in the forthcoming Israeli film *Yossi and Jagger*, which has two soldier lovers rolling in a Golan Heights snowbank.

The short kicks off abruptly with a face-to-face shouting match between Dubowski and an impassioned Argentinean critic of the film, illustrating how defensive religious traditionalists can become when a tenet of their faith is seriously questioned. "This is just filth. You're just trying to negotiate with religion," Dubowski is observed shaking with excitement as the film's world tour replicates the kind of passions aroused when the Pontiff leaves Rome in the Popemobile.

Utah echoes

A priceless moment occurs when a gay Mormon man sees *Trembling* at the Sundance Film Festival, accompanied by his wife bottle-feeding their infant child. "I had a boyfriend before I got married. I became a devote Mormon, and the church said this would go away. Five years later, it's not going away." Ironically, gay Mormons are among those finding the strongest echo of their own oppression in *Trembling*'s forceful images of a queer Orthodox Diaspora.

An Orthodox rabbi from Baltimore is surprised to find himself giving *Trembling* his own quiet testimonial. "I had expected the film to be a commercial for some kind of gay rights movement. It hurt to watch it — a good, important kind of hurt." Several people remark that the film's power is its ability to cause Orthodox straight people to witness the pain experienced by Orthodox queer people. *Trembling*'s run at New York's Film Forum is aided by temple groups whose comments in afterfilm discussions take on the dimensions of a Gotham Orthodox town meeting.

Particularly useful are the extended interviews with the six rabbis from the film, including Steve Greenberg. He details his

painful journey from a Columbus, Ohio boyhood to finding a lover in middle age, with filmmaker Dubowski acting as matchmaker. ▽

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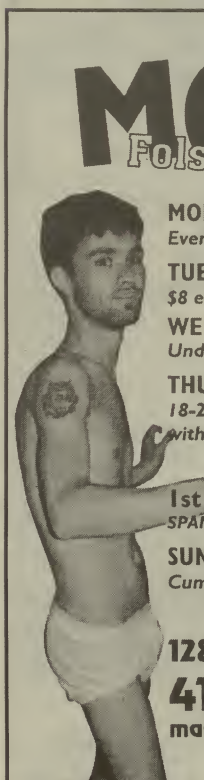
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SF dungeon tour a hit!

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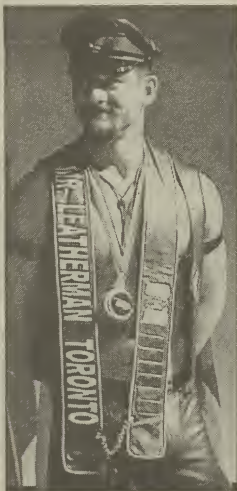
by Mister Marcus

The second dungeon tour in San Francisco staged last Saturday night, November 29th was a smashing success, declare the organizers, Peter Fiske and Steve Gaynes. Some 55 men and women took the tour and witnessed what was described as "superb play" by men and women at the dungeons visited. The SF Boys of Leather served food and beverages to those who paid \$55 for the opportunity to visit "active" and notorious dungeons in the city.

The men who paid for this opportunity also got to attend The 15 Association's monthly play party after the tour and when all was said and done, some \$3,150 was raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund. SF Leather Daddy Peter Fiske donated the food and the bus cost and from all reports, a good time was had by all. Those who were unable to attend due to the space limitation are already clamoring for another tour. Thanks to all the volunteers, organizers and those who were instrumental in making this another success!

Canadian bacon

The spotlight turned northward toward Toronto, Canada last weekend where the Mr. Leatherman Toronto competition was



Remi Collette won the Mr. Toronto Leatherman 2003 title last Saturday, November 29.



Seattle Men in Leather staged their 15th annual contest at the Cuff Complex last Saturday, November 29. Jim Drew, left, is Seattle Leather Daddy, and Rusty Jones is the Seattle Leather Daddy's boy.

taking place in a three-day celebration culminating with the contest itself, the leather ball immediately following the contest, and the victory brunch on Sunday.

At my deadline, all the details were not forthcoming, but when the votes of the judges were tallied, Remi Collette was chosen Mr. Leatherman Toronto. The first runner-up was Jared Sisons and the second runner-up was Jean-Guy Cloutier. The Mr. Leather Fellowship honor was given to Alan Jackson, and the Boot-black Toronto was awarded to "slaveboy dave".

Remi Collette was a resident of San Francisco in 2001 and 2002 and was a bartender at Daddy's for a short stint. He is also the other half of IML 1979 David Kloss. Remi advances to compete for the IML 2004 title in Chicago next May.

For those who keep track of such things, it's a fact that no one from Canada has ever won the IML title. That may all change at IML 2004. And I am not alone in this perception.

Observers are enthusiastic about Canadian contestants thus far. If you look at the new title holders from Ottawa (Steven Hould), Vancouver (Rob Kohl), Eastern Canada (Randall Perry) not to mention Mr. Montreal Leather and now Remi Collette from Toronto, the Canadians will give the other contestants a run

for their money. Stay posted. The IML 2004 contest is beginning to look very interesting!

Daddies & boys in Seattle

The concept of leather daddies and boys is not exclusive to San Francisco. This past Saturday night, the Seattle Men of Leather staged their annual contest at the Cuff Complex, with two men vying for the Daddy spot and two boys vying for the Daddy's boy title.

When all the votes were counted, Jim Drew was sashed Seattle Leather Daddy 2003 and his other half, Rusty Jones was named Seattle Leather Daddy's boy. This was the 15th year for this particular title and congratulations are in order.

Long live Lips!

Last Saturday, the venerable B.A.R. columnist, Sweet Lips celebrated his birthday with an afternoon of schmoozing at the Rendez-Vous on Polk Street. The canapes by Dennis Tyler were superb and a big crowd was on hand to wish the ancient one many more years of life. Good show!

Holiday madness

The season is upon us and a myriad of Christmas events are headed your way.

This Saturday, December 6, the ACLC is staging their annual
next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, December 5-7

Southwest Master/slave contest leading up to the International Master/slave contest later this year. The venue is the Holiday Inn ASU in Tempe.

Saturday, December 6

Alameda County Leather Corps' annual Santa's Slave Auction where you can bid on leather celebs and others for services or other goodies. At the Turf Club in Hayward from 1800 to 2200.

Sunday, December 7

Holiday Leather Brunch from 1230 to 1430, at the Hotel Utah, only \$20 to benefit PRC. Entertainment with a fabulous brunch and one Mimosa cocktail.

International Boot Black Richie Chameroy hosts a bootblack beer/soda bust at Daddy's from 1600 to 1800 to benefit the AEF and the BB Travel Fund. It should be fun at this one!

Forum Christmas Party at Leticia's on 7th & Harrison from 1800 to 2100, by invitation or

wearing of your club overlay. A buffet and adult beverages (some of them free!) will be afforded the guests.

Wednesday, December 10

Float around the premises at 933 Harrison tonight at Golden Shower Buddies play party. You know the rules. Call: 777-HEAD.

Thursday, December 11

"Naughty or Nice" beer/soda bust by Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn from 2000-2300, with bids taken on hunky bartenders, entertainment and fun galore. To benefit Magnet and the Mr. SF Travel Fund.

Weekend, January 16-20

The Centaur MC's annual "Leather Weekend" in Washington, D.C. to name Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2004. The IML 2004 judges will be announced during the weekend, and the host Washington Plaza Hotel is sold out. For more info, surf to www.leatherweekend.com

PORN

Falcon rising

by John F. Karr

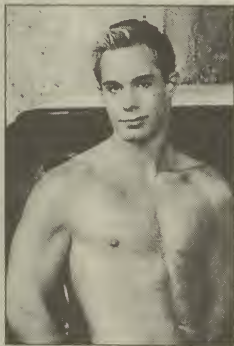
The bird is dead! Long live the bird!

Falcon, that is. Having survived in rapid succession the death of its founder, its 30th birthday, and the resignation of its heir apparent, Falcon Studios has entered a new era. Just in time, too. I had been feeling the company's formula, however successful it has been, needed a little evolving. The trademark look was becoming a straitjacket; the ethos was old. Now there's a brand new chief of staff, and a brand new staff. There's a brand new film director for the mainline titles. And while it seems too early to tell how good a director Kristopher Weston might become (his first feature, *Good as Gold*, had both its best scene and its orgy eviscerated during editing), there are hopeful signs of regeneration among a handful of current releases.

The two-part Jocks release *Addiction* was most likely a product of the old regime; I'm unsure of its gestation. But I'm not

unsure of its limited success, which shows the old formula in need of revitalization. Or at least some clarity in its scenario, devised by Chris Steele and director Chi Chi LaRue. *Addiction* takes place at one of those monstro circuit parties, and struggles to make a statement about the nature of those events. Yet its thoughts, as well as its narrative, are garbled, and only vitiate the movie's energy, which winds down as it goes on.

Addiction has a starry cast, and the sex starts out effectively enough, with the movie's most successful scene, a quintet's fantastic array of boners parading turgescence as the essence. Impressive newer stars here include brute-faced baddy Ken Houser and blue-eyed Maxx Diesel, a monolith of man whose 6'5" height seems equaled by the spread of his shoulders. If he had a hair on his head or body, I'm sure it would be blond; one suspects he's a Visigoth. Here's a moment that made me drool: studboy Trent Atkins standing on



Trent Atkins in *Addiction*: jacked.

his head, his jackknifed legs splitting his ass wide open for a succession of gluttonous ass-eaters to gorge upon. Boyish, furry Danny

Voxx is a stimulating treat (although he won't achieve his full slutty potential until engaged by Titan Studio for *Carny* and, most especially, the new *Service Trade*).

There's a flip-flop fuck for Brad Benton and Rob Romoni,

and a doozy of a drooler in which ultra-fox Justin Dragon suavely slides a superb fuck into the aforesaid Mr. Voxx. Still, most of the other sexcapades reveal lots of effort and little joy. This is a party?

Lush bloom

There's a paradigm change in Falcon's two subsequent features. Ms. LaRue offers near continual rapture in the deservedly touted, two-part *Drenched*, a wordless rhapsody filmed in thrillingly lush settings in Hawaii. Assured in conception and execution from start to finish, with dreamy music complementing languorous yet always intense sexuality, *Drenched* is a passionate reverie that actually takes time to savor its sexuality (even though it inexplicably sequesters onto a bonus content disc its best tidbit, a musclebound stud squatting on Matthew Rush's cock; and its most beautiful scene, Josh Weston and Alex LeMonde making spectacular love in a secluded lake; while permitting a petered-out orgy to occupy the fi-



Tyler Gunn in *Drenched*: sizzling.

nale's slot).

Lane Fuller (his chest thankfully unshaven) heats up three successive scenes: in an aquamarine pond with sensational Brad Patton; a salacious group-romp culminating with Fuller astride Jack Ryan's questing prong; and a torchlit bout with Chase Hunter. Rush is dynamite making out with muscular Viktor Perseo (whose ejaculation is accompanied by exclamations in Russian, both fervent and incomprehensible). Newcomer Tyler Gunn is a sizzling beauty, and stars Carlos Morales, Filippo Romano, Tommy Brandt, Joe Foster and Tag Adams (here IDed as Chet Roberts) are seen at their best. *Drenched* had me drenched in a variety of body fluids, from drool to jiz.

And then there's the Jocks feature *Quarterback Sack*, created (I'm told) because Josh Weston wanted to be gangbanged. Boy, is he ever. The delightful proposition is that coach Maxx Diesel wants his football squadron to let off a little steam before the big game. The team members haul out their members, go all-out for their buddies, and rim Diesel like he's Odin being swallowed up by the great Fenris wolf at the end of the world. Then Josh is kidnapped and fucked silly by the rival team — nine swarthy, super-hung and mostly uncut Hispanic dudes. Although this second scene is not as strong as the first, I admired Weston's lascivious appetite and ability. And I appreciated the movie's format: these two 45-minute group scenes show Falcon trying new formats. Really encouraging. www.falconstudios.com; (800) 227-3717 ▼

Angels in America

◀ page 39

suppressed feelings. He will abandon his wife if necessary (he can no longer keep up the pretense) and will tell his mother the truth, no matter how painful. Finally, he's himself. His infatuation with Louis is sweet yet demanding.

Streep plays several roles with remarkable skill. Her Hannah even has a little humor: she arrives in Brooklyn like a no-nonsense Blanche du Bois. She's also very funny as Ethel Rosenberg, who

haunts the dying Cohn. Thompson essays multiple characters with warmth and power. As Harper, Parker is moving in an underdeveloped role. Wright's Belize has a fierce integrity and unflinching humanity.

The film moves in and out of "reality." Its spiritual values are broad and inclusive, affirming something beyond reality that people must find if they are to transcend the horrors of a disease no one can cure, which many think afflicts those who deserve death. None of America's usual protections — class, wealth, race,

education, gender, youth — are effective against AIDS. It's an equal-opportunity destroyer. Traditional institutions and leaders have failed, so new ones are needed. The Angel hails Prior as the Prophet. Can he forge a new path, if not to salvation, then at least to hope? ▼

Angels in America, Part I airs Sun., Dec. 7 on HBO. A free screening of **Part II, Perestroika** will be held at the Castro Theatre on Sat., Dec. 6 at 11:30 a.m., first-come, first-serve.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Santa's Slave Auction at the Turf Club in Hayward. Also, there's the fundraiser by Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn on Thursday, December 11, when you can bid on a hunky bartender at Daddy's from 2000 to 2300. It's a benefit for Magnet and the Mr. SF

Leather Travel Fund with raffles and a beer/soda bust.

The Forum of SF Christmas Party is on Sunday, December 7 at 1800, and earlier in the day, the annual Holiday Leather Brunch (1230 to 1430) at the Hotel Utah (4th & Bryant).

The Golden Gate Guards and the Constantines MC are also staging their Christmas parties by invitation only, and there's

Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" and the Dance-Along Nutcracker show. Throw in all the private home parties, shopping, travel plans to visit "the folks" and December will be absolutely jumping. Blow Buddies have decided *not* to have the Leather Buddies gathering in December. All of this should keep you busy, if not out of trouble, so enjoy the season! ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Twain for Prez!

I've got a "Mark Twain for President" button over my desk, the sole item given to me by my dear departed rock-climbing partner **Carl Henderson**, who passed from AIDS in 1993. The button aptly reflects Carl's wry humor, as American as Queer Apple Pie. Twain, the candidate of the **Anti-Doughnut Mugwump Party** in the election of '88, is quoted with the immortal words: "I'm in favor of anything and everything everybody is in favor of. There could not be a broader platform than mine." Amen to that!

Meanwhile, **Angels in America** is coming to **HBO**, as you well know, and my two cents is it delivers a cinematic knock-out punch! I never expected **Al Pacino** to rise to the occasion of playing the formidable, demanding role of the vile, icky **Roy Cohn**, but damned if he didn't make it real! I worship that man (Pacino, not Cohn).

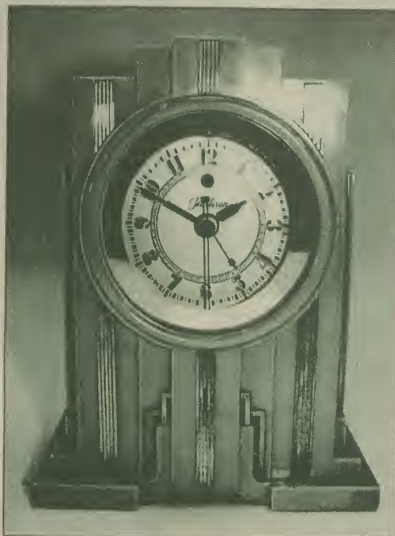
A huge buzz is happening around **Amy Robinson, Ph.D.**, the new Executive Director at the **Jon Sims Center for the Arts** (www.jonsimsctr.org), which of course is the cutting-edge multiple-use queer performance nexus established by flamboyant **Freedom Band** founder **Jon Sims**. At a recent reception in her honor, excitement and expectations were high among all the artists, playwrights, performers, dancers and others assembled. The first thing you notice about Robinson is her warmth, her eager embrace of her new challenge, and her easy way of relating to people.

Things are hopping over at **The Center** (aka the SF LGBT Community Center), where recently I attended a swell pasta dinner and comedy night put on by **Thrive SF** (an HIV support group) and **QComedy**, at which stalwart comedians **Doug Holsclaw**, **Pippi Lovestocking**, and **Nick Leonard** cheered the unexpectedly large crowd. Seems Thrive wasn't prepared for so many folks, and more pasta had to be whipped up quick!

Also at The Center last week, the handsome, articulate **Dan Nicoletta**, of **Castro Camera** fame, delivered a stirring slide/talk presentation covering the history of the **Harvey Milk** era, as witnessed first hand. The historic images were priceless, as were all the guests who filled the stage afterward to deliver their own first-hands: **Sally Gearhart**, **Jim Rivaldo**, **Ann Kronenberg**, **Tory Hartmann**, **Randy Alfred** and **Rich Nichols**, plus others in the audience with equal claim to having been there. May they continue to long live out Harvey's dream!

Over at the **Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy** last Monday, the cream of the queer performance community turned out to support **Matt Gonzalez** for Mayor and delivered a rousing show. Turns out **Joan Crawford** (**Hedda Lettuce**), just back from the dead, thinks Matt is a hottie, and laments Gavin's over-use of hair gel!

Kudos to singer/songwriter **Mark Weigle** and the Chorus of **St. Francis Lutheran Church** for a stirring World AIDS Day remembrance last Monday, benefiting UCSF's AIDS Research Institute. When Weigle joined in with the Chorus, all the Angels in America were smiling! ▼



Find your dream gift at "Art Deco - '60s" at the Concourse Exhibition Center. See Saturday.

Eri

Tara Brandel's 'Love Dances' @ 848 Community Space

Tara Brandel and Mna Rua Dance Productions present "Love Dances," directed by Brandel with Jessica Robinson and Mary Anne Brooks. Images and installation by Desiree Lymbertos. In the face of our current wars, and racial fear and hatred, "Love Dances" celebrates our human capacity for love in its many forms, from lesbian sexual passion to the universal love felt on the streets during the recent peace activism. \$14 (NOTAFLOF). 8:30pm. Fri-Sun, Dec 5-7 & 12-14. Tix: 922-2385.

Sat

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band's 'Dance-Along Nutcracker' @ YBCA

Under the baton of Artistic Director **Jadine Louie**, the world-famous SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band returns to perform the 2003 **Dance-Along Nutcracker**, a zany musical romp around the world. Featuring **Philias Fogg** and **Passapartout** as played by **Acid Housewife** performer **Kim Larsen** and **Countertenor/Bass Steven McKearney**. **Trent Morant** sings an African-inspired feature. Traditional longsword dance (a la Northern England) by **Stinging Nettle Longsword**. Special **Balinese-style shadow puppets** by **Janaki Ranpura** and **I Made Moja** (with assist from **Larry Reed** of **ShadowLight Productions**). **Carmen Miranda** and the **Andrews Sisters** performed by members of the cast of **Christmas with the Crawfords**. As always, the audience dance troupe is welcome and encouraged to move about freely! \$40 **Gala Night Show** with holiday reception. Afternoon shows: \$21 gen'l; \$14 children & seniors. 2:30 & 7pm Saturday; 11am & 3pm Sunday. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 978-ARTS; dancealongnutcracker.org

Butch-Femme Social @ CELLspace

Butch-Femme Socials' Annual Holiday Party and Art Exhibit. Art exhibit by members of the

butch/femme community, DJ dancing, videos of Butch and Femme Appreciation Days, snacks and drinks. Bring a wrapped present under \$10 for the gift exchange (Butches bring a femme present; femmes bring a butch present). Surprise guests at 10pm that you won't want to miss! Formal attire requested but not required. Wear whatever makes you feel festive. A clean and sober event. \$15 at the door 7:30-11:30pm (Singles Meet & Greet 7:30-8:30pm). 18 and older. Wheelchair accessible space. CELLspace, 2050 Bryant Street, between 18th & 19th. Info: cellspace.org. PS: Not-so-sober After Party at The Monkey Club, 2730 21st Street @ Bryant.

'Snow Ball' @ The Center

Join other midlife gay/bi men and their admirers for the gay party of the winter season: "Snow Ball... A Holiday Mixer," presented by MGM (Midlife Gay Men) and the STOP AIDS Project's "In Our Prime." Enjoy live entertainment, dancing, and complimentary refreshments. Nominal charge for wine & beer. No admission charge, but donations appreciated. 4-7pm. Ceremonial Room & Roof Terrace, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Pre-register at mhr@onebox.com or call toll free at 1-866-668-4634 and leave name and address.

'Booty Bump'

Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) and **San Francisco In Exile (SFInX)** present "Booty Bump," a spoken word extravaganza devoted to sex and speed. Curated and hosted by **Kirk Read**. As speed use rips through various communities, these performers gather for a very unofficial town-hall meeting. Forget the public-health finger-wagging. Expect the sort of humor, grace and passion that come from observation and lived experience. Featuring legendary chanteuse **Bambi Lake**, underground publishing hero **Bill Brent** of **Black Books**, **Bay Times** rock columnist **Don Baird**, fire-tongued word slinger **Meliza Banales**, **Deep Dickollective's** **Juba Kalamka**, and new to the city by way of Montreal, **Robin Akimbo**. This event will be recorded for the SFInX web archive and is co-sponsored by www.tweeker.org, a website devoted to helping folks party safer. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. between 11th St. and South

Van Ness (near Civic Center BART). Tix/info/wheelchair access: 554-0402; jonsimsctr.org

'Shameless' @ The Center

Thea Hillman presents "Shameless," an evening of performance reflecting intersex experiences; a benefit for the Intersex Society of North America. Featuring **Hillman**, **Solidad DiCosta**, **Aidan Kotler**, **Robert Lawrence**, **Shar Rednour**, **Elias Se Mbessakwini**, **Hida Viloria**, with **MC Fairybutch** (aka **Karlyn Lotney**). ASL Interpreted. \$10-\$50 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 7:30pm silent auction; 8pm show. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: email shameless4isna@hotmail.com; www.harveymilk.org

'Fire & Ink' @ ChangeMakers, Oakland

Special benefit performance: "Fire & Ink." A Writers Festival for GLBT People of African Descent, hosted by **Karen X**, featuring **Marvin K. White**, **Brigitte Roberts**, **Bahiyih Maroon**, **Mattie Richardson**, **Carla Trujillo**, **Juba Kalamka**, **Michelle Tea**, **Jennifer Argle**, **Earthlyn M. Manuel**, **Tim'm West**, and **Gwendolyn Bikis**. \$5-\$12 sliding. 7pm. ChangeMakers, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Info: 510-655-2405; www.geocities.com/cleo2525

'Writers with Drinks'

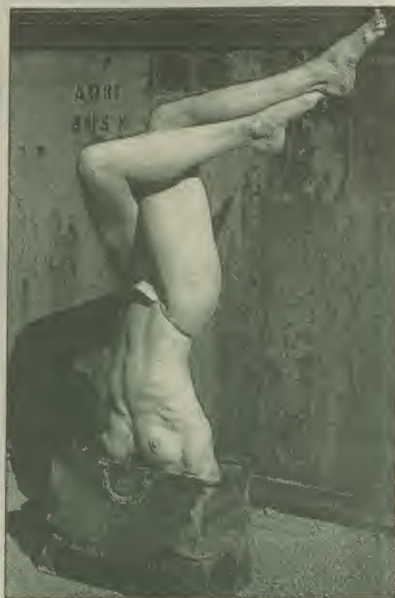
@ Make-Out Room MC **Charlie Girl**, editor/publisher of other magazine, hosts "Writers With Drinks," featuring **Matt Bernstein** **Sycamore** (**Pulling Taffy**), poetry from **Clive Matson**, SF/Fantasy from **Pat Murphy**, comedy from **Yayne Abeba**, non-fiction from **Annalee Newitz**, and lit from **Chaim Berman**. \$3-\$5 sliding. 7-10pm. 3225 22nd St. (btwn Mission/Valencia). Info: www.othermag.org

SF Hiking Club @ Mt. Diablo

Join other outdoors lovers for a Mount Diablo Hike. Enjoy a late fall romp to the top of Contra Costa County's highest point. It's a strenuous 13-mile hike with a 3,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:20am at the Walnut Creek BART. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Holiday Party

Join the festive annual gathering in the Castro sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Sierrans



Leigh Evans performs "When Day Became Night," a story of ordinary citizens in times of war," Dec. 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13, 8pm, at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. Call 695-8889.

(GLS), an activity section of the SF Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, serving the LGBT community and friends. A perfect, low-pressure way to learn more about GLS and its members without venturing out on a strenuous hike or a weekend camping trip. GLS offers a wide range of activities, including easy urban strolls, dog walks in the East Bay hills, and trips to local museums. Admission is free; bring a dessert or some hors d'oeuvres for the potluck table. 4:30-7pm. Park Hill Condominiums, 351 Buena Vista East. Info: 415-281-5666; sfbay.sierraclub.org/GLS

'Drunken Santa's Holiday Frenzy'

@ Eagle Tavern

Get Drunk and Go Shopping as Sugar Valley presents the first annual "Drunken Santa's Holiday Frenzy and Beer Bust" at the lovely Eagle Tavern, where 15 Sugar Valley artists will be selling zines, costumes, paintings, t-shirts, punk rock buttons, stocking stuffer and other cool art. Featuring **Andres Besse Montoya** (Afro-Cuban paintings); **Michael Wertz** ("World of Good" drawing and prints); **Nell Jehu** (Art without Clothing); **Bill Bowers** (scene photography); **Kreemah Ritz** (Cockettes paraphernalia); **Carl Linkhart** (small paintings inhabited by spirit forces); **David Faulk** (items from Mrs. Vera's brain); **Michael Johnstone** (overdressed polyester photog-

raphy); **Marc Sanches** (kitsch paintings/lounge lizard); **Flower Frankenstein** (BikiniKat Souvenirs); **Mim** (mixed-media paintings); **Rev. Michel St. Germain** (scene photography); **Jim Winters** (parakeet lamps, prints); **The Wrong Element** (irreverent schwaag); **Justin Hall** (Less Than Hero Comic); and **All Thumbs Press** (comic collective). Shopping starts at 12 noon. \$8 gets you beer and a raffle ticket from 2-5pm. The Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: Christopher Nash, 519-9023; www.sugarvalley.org

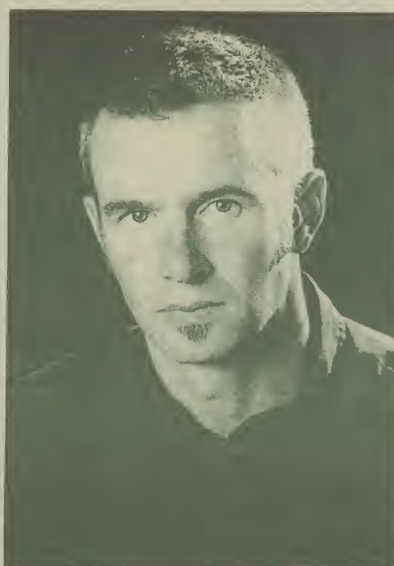
'Deco the Halls' @ Concourse Exhibition Center

"Deco the Halls," an Art Deco — '60s Holiday Sale, featuring **Art Nouveau**, **Art Deco**, **Vintage Western**, x'40s, x'50s, & x'60s furniture, accessories, rugs, art, dinnerware, pottery, jewelry, vintage clothing, books, collectibles, plus a vintage fashion show (2pm). Plus a swaying dance demonstration and **Art Deco Walking Tours** through **Pacific Heights** (Sat) and the **Marina District** (Sun). \$8 admission (\$6 Deco Society Members). 10am-6pm Sat; 11am-5pm Sun. The Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th & Brannan. Info: 650-599-DECO; artdeco-sale.com

Sun

Lunatique Fantastique's 'Foiled Again' @ New Conservatory Theater

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center and Lunatique Fantastique present "Foiled Again," a completely new fourth episode in the company's "Wrapping Paper Caper" series, written by **Liebe Wetzel** and performed by the **Lunatique Fantastique Ensemble**. When Dr. Strange Glove (played by lab coat and rubber glove) is sprung from prison by his rubber-glove minions, it is up to **Mademoiselle Papier** (wrapping paper and tinsel) and **Mr. Detective** (trench coat and hat) to bring him back to justice. They chase him all over the world! After each show, kids get to meet the objects in "Foiled Again" and learn how to use jackets, scarves and the like to play characters! \$10 youth; \$12 adults. 2pm. Also on Dec 20, 22, 23, 27, 29 & 30, plus Jan 3, 2004. Special shows: 10am & 11:30am Mon-Thurs for school groups and families. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org



Trebor Healey reads from his hard-hitting novel *Through It Cam Bright Colors* at Books Inc. in the Castro. See Tuesday.



Hear the golden harmonies of Golden Gate Men's Chorus at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. See Tuesday.

'Trapped and Found' @ Glama-Rama

Opening party: Glama-Rama presents "Trapped and Found: A Collection of Squashed Plush" by Mariette Marinus. Ring in the holiday season amid cuddly cute plush animals stuffed and imprisoned in picture and plastic boxes! Mildly scary and yet adorably sweet. Feel empathy for the poor entrapped creatures! Also working in clay, Mariette is partial to pieces that subtly tweak viewers' emotions, stirring up something you can't quite place. Free. 6-9pm. 417 South Van Ness Ave. (at 15th St.). Info: 577-0019.

'Leather Brunch Benefit' @ Hotel Utah

Mark Paladini presents the "7th Annual Leather Brunch Benefit," a fundraiser for the Positive Resource Center (PRC). At 12:30pm attendees will be treated to a holiday feast followed by live entertainment and a silent auction. Two surprise guests will get a special gift from Santa and receive a chance to double any bid they offer on the auction. Awards given to the "Unsung Hero Volunteer Of The Year." PRC's mission is to assist people affected by HIV/AIDS through culturally appropriate counseling, education and advocacy in making informed choices which maximize available benefits and employment opportunities. \$20 (includes buffet and mimosa cocktail or soda). 12:30-2:30pm. Hotel Utah, 500 4th St (at Bryant). Tix: Daddy's Bar (440 Castro, SF), or call 415-292-9808 x2

'Teddy Care 2003' @ Dean Leshner Center & The Plush Room

Bruce E. Phillips and eCabaret-SF.com present "Teddy Care 2003," the 5th annual holiday fundraising cabaret show benefiting Shanti, Arts Access, Bay Area Crisis Nursery, and the children of SF General Hospital. Afternoon show (2pm) at the Dean Leshner Theatre, Walnut Creek. Evening show (7pm, also on Dec. 14) at the Plush Room in SF. Both shows feature outstanding cabaret performers. Afternoon show hosted by cabaret diva Samantha Samuels, featuring Lynda Berggren-Kalb; Lisa Bowman; John McCullough; M.L. Parr; Bruce E. Phillips; and Lauren White. Evening show hosted by Darlene Popovic, with Houston Allred, Bill Cooper, Coley Grundman, John McCullough, Tammy Nelson, Richard Nickol and Bruce E. Phillips. \$15 plus a brand new teddy bear. Tix: Dean Leshner Theater, 1601

Civic Dr., Walnut Creek; 925-943-7469. The Plush Room of the York Hotel, 940 Sutter St., SF; 415-885-2800.

SF Hiking Club

@ Steep Ravine
Join other outdoors lovers on the Matt Davis/Stinson Beach/Steep Ravine Trails. You'll be hard-pressed to find so many stunning landscapes (and waterfalls) anywhere else in the Bay Area. It's a moderate 7-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Mon

Sean José's 'Domino' @ YBCA

Intersection + Campo Santo present "Domino," created by acclaimed Bay Area artist Sean San José as the latest in a series of pieces that deal with AIDS, loss and grief. Featuring performances by Benton Green and Sean San José, and live music integration by Josh Jones, Scheherazade Stone and Joe Lopez. Developed for Intersection + Campo Santo from an Alma Delfina Group commission. Part of the Intersection + Campo Santo "Open Process Series." \$5. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission St. (btwn 3rd/4th). Tix: 978-2787; www.yerbabuenaarts.org. Info: 626-2787; the.intersection.org

Garrin Benfield @ Red Devil Lounge

The Garrin Benfield Band plays for the hometown crowd as part of "Viv and a Movie," the regular showcase at the Red Devil Lounge. Benfield has spent the last three months touring North America, first as the opening act for the Boz Scaggs summer tour, followed by a solo tour across much of the US and Canada in the fall. "Viv and a Movie" is a weekly series that combines film, music, art and food. Also on the bill are local rockers Viv and Jesse P. Cutler. Fine Art provided by Kaolin Fire and Alanna Spence. Pre-show performances by Matt Lucas from WOMAN and Priscilla Ederle. 9pm. 1695 Polk St. (at Clay). Info: 921-1695; www.garrin.com

Janis Lipton @ QComedy

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy" at the LGBT Community Center, this week hosted by Janis Lipton

(www.janislipton.com), who started comedy in 1997, driven by a need to escape the overstimulation of her work in asbestos litigation. Plus, not known for her outgoing personality, it was a first step in actually getting a life. Lipton has wowed audiences ever since, making them laugh at her subtle, simple jokes delivered with a droll, needy persona. Also appearing: musical guest Kitten on the Keys, Maggie Dolan, Roscoe Bing, Erin Souza, Laura Swisher, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 7:30pm reception; 8pm show. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-6533; www.harveymilk.org

Tue

Golden Gate Men's Chorus @ St. Matthew's Church

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus concludes its 21st season with its annual holiday concert series, "Christmas Comes Anew." Under the direction of Joseph Jennings, the men of the GGMC will bring their unique blend of voices to a wide selection of sacred and secular music of the season. Plus a sing-along of holiday carols. The GGMC's newest CD, MASS, will be available at the concert. The album features the Mass in B-flat by Josef Rheinberger and Maurice Duruflé's Messe Cum Jubilo. Recorded under the resounding dome of St. Ignatius Church, MASS is the culmination of two-and-a-half years of work. The GGMC is a select group of 50 men representing the ethnic and social diversity of SF, who share a common appreciation of choral music. \$15. 8pm. Also Dec. 14 at 4pm & 7pm, and Dec. 17 at 8pm. St. Matthew's, 3281 16th St. At a Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St.; www.ggmc.org

Trebor Healey @ Books Inc.

Trebor Healey returns from two months on the road to read from his new novel, *Through It Came Bright Colors* (Huntington Park Press, 2003). Free. 7:30pm. Books Inc., 2275 Market St. at 16th St. Info: Books Inc., 864-6777; www.treborhealey.com

Wed

**Wesla Whitfield
@ The Plush Room**
Dynamic vocalist Wesla Whitfield, a long-time San Francisco favorite, returns to the Plush Room, uniting with pianist/vocalist Mike Greensill and bassist John Wiitala to perform new show material, including, says Whitfield, "some fun tunes from those old masters, Cole Porter, Lorenz Hart and many other favorites. Wesla and Mike also celebrate their latest combined HighNote recording, *September Songs*, featuring the Kronos Quartet, the late Tommy Flanagan and other luminaries. \$20 plus two-drink minimum. Wed-Sat 8pm; Sun 3pm. Thru Jan. 10. Special New Year's Eve Show 10pm Dec. 31. York Hotel/Plush Room, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

Thu

Out & Equal's 'The Commercial Closet'

@ The Center
Out & Equal Workplace Advocates hosts a presentation of "The Commercial Closet." It's time advertising came out of the closet! See how classic gay stereotypes like the sissy, the lipstick lesbian and the leatherman, as well as same-sex kisses have been represented in commercials world-wide over the last 30 years. A fun, informative video show and engaging discussion presented by veteran ad journalist Michael Wilke. Plus networking, drinks, & hors d'oeuvres. \$20 suggested donation. 6-8pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, 2nd Floor. RSVP to: lmszenski@outandequal.org. Late Registration available at the door.

Lawrence Rinder @ Commonwealth Club

INFORM and The Commonwealth Club present Lawrence Rinder, Curator of Contemporary Art at the prestigious Whitney Museum of American Art. Since coming to the Whitney in the spring of 2000, Rinder has selected the works on view in the Museum's Permanent Collection galleries. Rinder spent much of the past year touring the globe in search of art for "American Effect," an exhibition revealing how artists and filmmakers from around the world view America and its mythological international presence. He was chief curator of the 2002 Whitney Biennial and co-curator of Bit-Streams, the Museum's groundbreaking 2001 exhibition on the impact of digital technology on contemporary art. \$10 for Members, \$18 for Non-members. 6pm Wine & Hors d'oeuvres Reception; 6:30pm Panel. Club Office, 595 Market Street, 2nd floor. Tix: 597-6705/6706; www.commonwealthclub.org

Shotgun Players @ Live Oak Theater, Berkeley

Opening night: Shotgun Players present "The Death of Meyerhold," tragedy with a smile on its lips. A young man struggles with his ideals in a turbulent world of riots, political unrest and revolution. \$20 opening night; \$18 other nights; \$10 Thursdays. 1301 Shattuck Ave. (at Berryman), Berkeley. Tix: 510-704-8210; www.shotgunplayers.org

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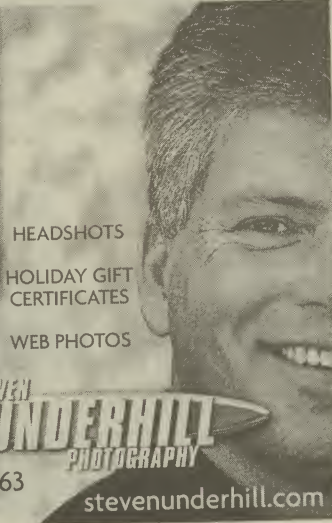
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Squashed plushes trapped in plexiglas await you as Glama-Rama presents "Trapped and Found," works by Mariette Marinus. See Sunday.

'Tis the season to turn off the tube

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Thanksgiving's over, but the turkeys keep coming. 'Tis officially the holiday TV season, which means it's also the end of the fall season. December means lots of reruns, a few debuts of midseason replacements, and more holiday specials than you can shake a remote at. If "Bah, humbug!" is your mantra, leave the set off for the next few weeks and get spiritual, or start volunteering that tube time at the local shelter. Otherwise, expect to be singing "Jingle Bell Rock" around the clock.

With the fall season officially ended, most shows are on hiatus until January and the networks have decided, based on ratings and other, more mysterious considerations, what stays and what goes.

Some cancellations are no surprise: ABC's *LA Dragnet* proved that adding a city's initials before the name of a revamped but still bad show doesn't make it any better. The critics panned David Kelley's *The Brotherhood of Poland, New Hampshire* on CBS, and it never caught on with viewers. Despite a comfy Thursday placement between *Will & Grace* and *ER*, the edgy and much-touted

Coupling, with its endless sexual intrigue, bisexuality and hard-ons, never quite caught on. Some British shows don't lend themselves to American translation. The cast was good, but there were never those laugh-out-loud moments essential to a winning sit-

com. NBC also canceled Rob Lowe's interesting but not-quite-edgy-enough political drama, *The Lyon's Den*. Had it not been up against a revamped and fabulous *The Practice* on ABC, it

might have lasted more than a season on Sunday nights. Lowe should have stayed with *The West Wing*, where he was terrific. But at least now he has more time to devote to helping Gov. Ahhh-nold run California.



Lavender Tube

Two of the worst debuts of the season have also blessedly been canceled: *The Mulets*, no comment needed; and *Luis*, the hideous Steppin' Fetchit Latino sitcom. Also getting the ax: *Skin*, FOX's expensive guilty-pleasure show about the porn industry, with hunks on parade. But the cancellation which shocked us is NBC's *Boomtown*, one of the best dramas on TV. The show never got much of a chance in its two sort-of seasons. It floated from spot to spot, sometimes Fridays, sometimes Sundays. Viewers couldn't find it, and it needed a regular home to develop a devoted fan base. NBC showed it twice this season and then pulled it, despite critical acclaim. Hiss.

Another edgy drama which has dealt with gay themes, bullying, sexual predation, racism and other issues part of high school life is FOX's *Boston Public*. Consistently intelligent and realistic, this show deserves to stay on the air.

What's shocking is how many bad shows haven't been canceled. Most of the new fall line-up has been a disappointment. We only like smart, funny sitcoms, thus *W&G*, *Frasier* and even *Friends* continue to amuse us, and ABC's *Hope & Faith*, featuring comedy heavyweights Kelly Ripa and

Faith Ford, is very funny. But as much as we wanted to like *It's All Relative*, it's simply too stupid to woo us. The gay element couldn't be more forced, and the predominant storyline is still heterosexual. ABC renewed *IAR* for another full season.

We were also surprised that *Whoopi* was renewed. We love Miz Goldberg, but the show is very uneven, and we can't quite get behind the terrorism-is-funny premise. Ditto for the unevenness of *Happy Family*, also in the NBC Tuesday lineup. Christine Baranski and John Larroquette are superb, but writers have to give actors funny lines for sitcoms to work.

Uniform watch

Enough of the old season. Time to ring in the new. Set the VCRs for ABC's new drama *Line of Fire*, which debuted Tuesday. The *Sopranos*-caliber mob-vs.-Fed storyline is edge-of-your-seat drama, and if the premiere was an indicator, this show rocks. Plus, for the lesbian viewer, lots of hot women in uniform.

While he was a star of *Saturday Night Live*, African-American comedian Tracy Morgan was absolutely hilarious, especially as a lisping Mike Tyson, and in drag as Star Jones and Oprah. So give his new sitcom, debuting this week on NBC, a chance. However, all-black shows on largely all-white networks haven't had much luck in recent times. Morgan has fabulous comic timing, but whether the ghetto humor will capture a mixed audience (and acceptable ratings) is the question. The network should be promoting the show trying to capture the *SNL* crowd. In *Whoopi*'s time slot for now.

And may we simply say, for the record: No new gay TV in the new season. Wasn't it just five seconds ago we were hearing from conservatives that the end of the world was near because there was so much queer TV? Looks like the trend is in stasis. However, expect NBC to run lots of *Queer Eye* episodes through the holidays. It may be the only palatable reality TV show on the air, trying as it does to be firm but kind to its mentorees. Every member of the Fab Five is a delight. We think

NBC should just put *QE* on network and make the most of the ratings bonanza while it lasts.

Certainly that's what George Bush was doing with his secret two-hour trip to talk turkey with the troops at Baghdad airport on Thanksgiving. We try to quell any natural cynicism that sprouts up when Bush and his cadre do something for a ratings bump. We liked Bush's outfit: rugged and military-looking. The Democrats so have their work cut out for them. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) was in Iraq on a long-planned trip at the same time as the Prez, but got little press for it in his wake, naturally. She chose the path of least resistance and praised the President for his visit.

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, who had accompanied Bush (do we still have a Secretary of State?), made the rounds of the morning talk shows detailing how the trip had been planned and why — nothing about boosting his polls, just about boosting morale. Spin about the economy coincided with spin about the President's trip, since the holiday shopping season began in earnest last Friday. Every newscast noted "with the economy getting stronger," or "with the economy improving," or some variation on that theme. We suggest the President take a trip to California to visit his new governor and check out all the supermarket employees on strike. For the record numbers of Americans who are currently un- or under-employed, that "improving economy" is pumpkin pie in the sky.

Finally, with holiday prep in full swing and charitable thoughts on the minds of many Americans, *Dateline* exposed charitable giving last week. Their advice: *Caveat emptor*. Giver beware: Know your charity before you give. 'Tis the season to steal, apparently. And with charitable giving way down in the current, um, improving economy, it's important that the gifts you give get to those who deserve them. Bravo to *Dateline* for an exposé in time to protect the giver and the needy.

Now turn off the tube and get out and give. We'll stay tuned for you. ▼

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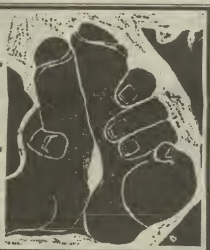
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Sunday Nov 16. You Asian, Me Irish. Thought you were with your boyfriend. Strong Eye contact. Let's Meet. ☎ 72893

Richard-Hottie on Muni Inbound
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Missed earlier ad by 48 yr old GLM looking for men over 60 for oral pleasures. I am 64 have nice daddy dick, stache. Pls rerun yr ad. ☎ 72886

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Affectionate Seniors
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Free Spaghetti
Win a delicious meal by answering this ad. If you are a slender, masculine guy 18 to 45. Cook is slender, masculine WM, 44. Into Friendship and Naked body contact. ☎ 72907

Bubble Butt Latin/Asian Boy
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48 yo, In shape Handsome Man
Looking for LTR with same. Age, race, to p, bottom not important. In shape gym toned body and cool attitude a must. ☎ 72895

Mutual JO and 69 Play
I am Latin, 40yo, 5'7", 153#, HIV+, healthy, slim muscular body, smooth round butt, husky Look. ISO masculine GWM/GLM with small size 25/40 yrs, slim, smooth, HIV+, healthy. Safe sex. 5'5" to 5'10". No drugs. Please be serious. ☎ 72896

Seeking Friendship or More
GWM, 33yo, 5'10, 160#, brn hr, brn eyes, HIV+, healthy, Seeking others for dating or possible relationship. Like movies, books, cooking and fitness. Age, race unimportant. ☎ 72897

Body Contact-SouthBay/Santa Clara. Me: Very Clean- UB2 or forget it. HIV- only! Hot 44 yo white male. 6'1", 225#, Hzl/grey, seeking hot daddy/bear type to keep me warm this winter. ☎ 72910

LESBIANS

Lonely in Reno Need a PenPal
Single white lesbian looking to converse with any single women with hopes of possibly something more. I enjoy camping, horses, and spooky movies. No drugs or heavy drinkers. ☎ 72904



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Spank your butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72887

Peninsula Male
43 yrs, trim, healthy, discreet, bi-curious seeks older 55+ male, female, tv, couple for fondling, oral, i.o., role-play, new ideas. Likes panties. No pain. ☎ 72888

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39, 5'10", slender build, clean cut, professional. Not into scene. Enjoy long foreplay, kissing, jo, oral, massage, showers, lots of body contact. Must be STD free, healthy living. ☎ 72889

Mature Japanese Men
Any age 35 - 75, any weight or size, serviced by bottom bear, 43, 5'9", 220, HIV -, beard, hairy. Am very oral (front and rear), Greek passive, anxious to please. ☎ 72890

Sacramento Area
GWM HIV-, tight little bottom, fantastic cocksucker. Needs long sessions of being fist fucked, and you can stay overnight, or longer. ☎ 72898

Bear Back Trick Rider
Hung, HIV+, Top, 50, 5'8", 200#, S/P/B, 7.5cut, with stamina plus. Into 2-5 hour sessions. Looking for HIV+ lean to muscular bottom, any age/race for one night stand or LTR. ☎ 72899

Versatile Boyish Asian
Seeks smooth gym toned muscular WM to kiss and lick all over from head to toe. I want to be your new oral buddy on a regular basis. ☎ 72900

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If you're not buffed, pretty, hung or young enough for those other guys, let's get together. I'm poz, 54, 5'10", 155#, S/P hair, and goatee, give great head and love getting fucked. ☎ 72901

Mature, Black topman, 5'9", 180
Thinning hair, moustache, 8.5". Seeking mature masculine submissive bottom man with conservative appearance. Husky build and moustache a plus. Zip 94501. Phone required. ☎ 72902

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I'm seeking guys who live in Marin and north of there for fun and good times, hung a plus. ☎ 72913

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Like masculine guys with tight firm butts 18 to 40 with 29 to 32 inch waistlines. Masculine WM 44, also trim waisted with handsome cock. Open to whatever your into. ☎ 72908

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And I am good at it. Call me, we can watch video, jo, "69", party, etc. Str8 guys contact me. ☎ 72912

To share Great Times!
Sexy attractive guy, well hung and good looking seeks guys who are hung to watch videos, have fun etc. Call me. ☎ 72914

Guys in San Jose and Surrounding Areas. Call me if you want to have a good time. Hung a plus. We can watch videos, listen to music etc. ☎ 72915

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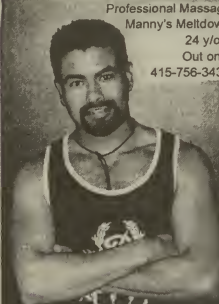
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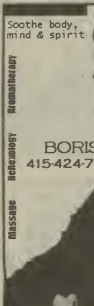
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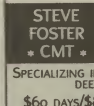


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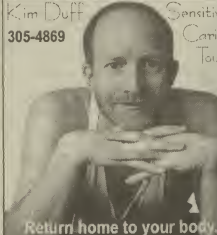
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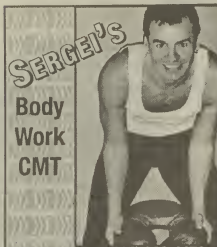
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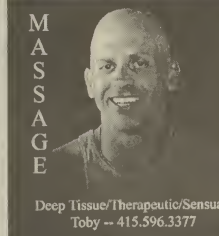
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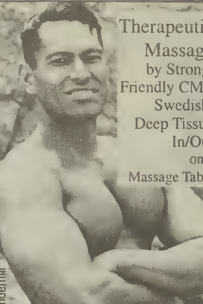


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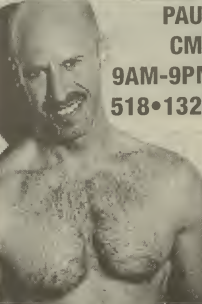
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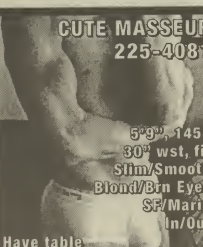
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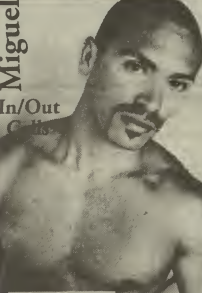
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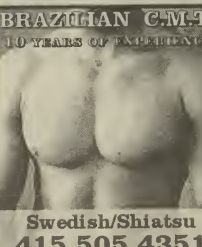
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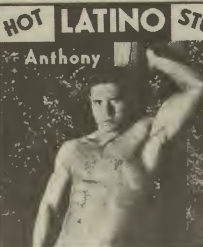
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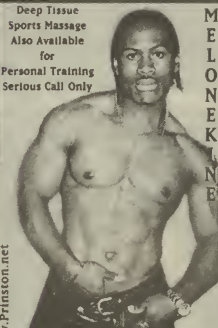
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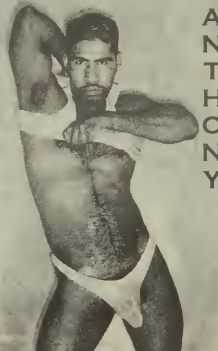


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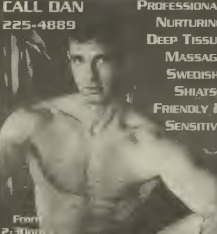
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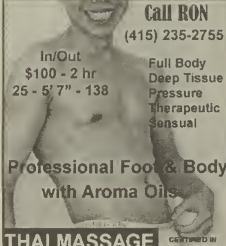


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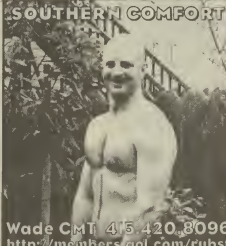
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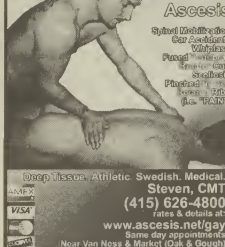
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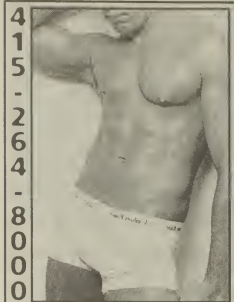
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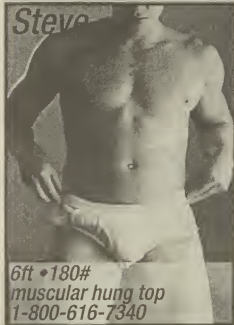
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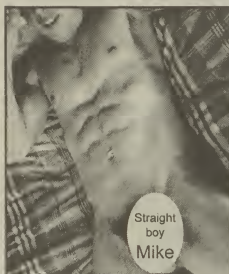
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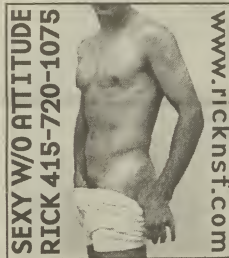
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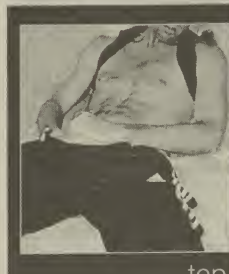
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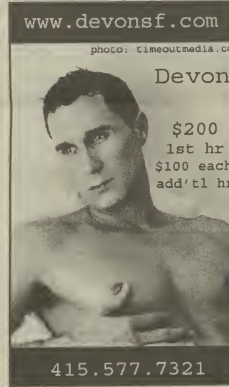
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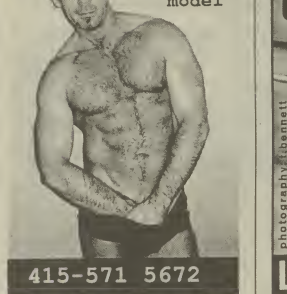
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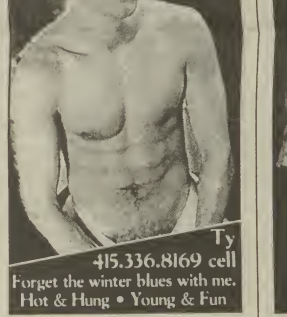
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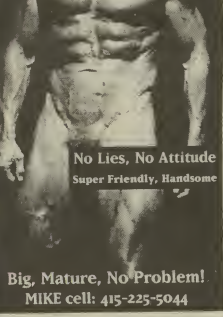
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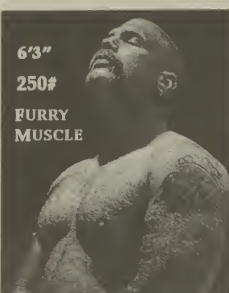
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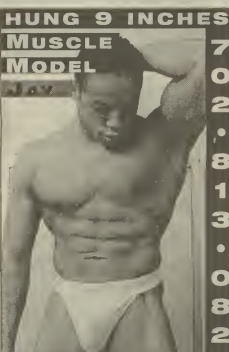
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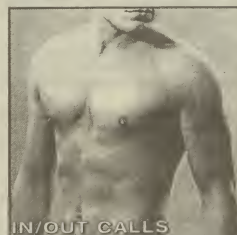
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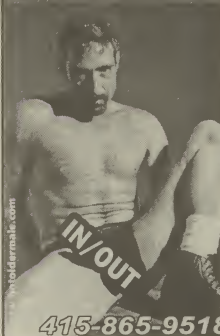
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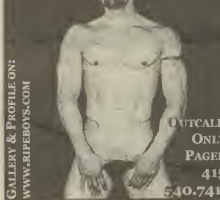
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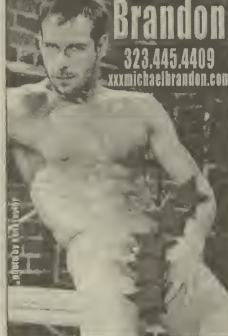
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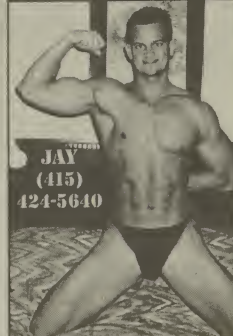
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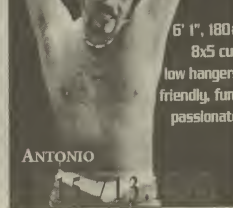
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